

Iraqi foreign minister in Moscow

MOSCOW (R) — Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz arrived in Moscow Monday for talks with Soviet leaders on the Iran-Iraq war. Soviet First Deputy Foreign Minister Yuri Vorontsov greeted him at the airport. TASS news agency reported. Earlier, the Iraqi News Agency said Aziz would discuss developments at the United Nations Security Council, of which the Soviet Union is a member, in the light of Iraq's failure to accept Resolution 598 ordering a Gulf war ceasefire. Baghdad has accused Moscow of trying to postpone attempts to impose sanctions against Iran to press it to accept the resolution. Meanwhile, TASS reported that a delegation from the Supreme Soviet had arrived in Iraq for a working visit. Vernon Walters, Washington's ambassador to the U.N., said Sunday the Security Council was considering a new resolution to increase pressure on Iran for a ceasefire. Asked if the Soviet Union supported a new resolution, he said: "The Soviets are agreeable to sanctions, but they want to give the secretary-general (Javier Perez de Cuellar) more time. The secretary-general says he needs more muscle behind him."

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جورديان تايمز يومية سياسية تصدر بالانجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الاردنية والراي

Group threatens to kill Israeli captive

BEIRUT (R) — A pro-Iranian guerrilla group threatened Monday to kill an Israeli it holds captive in Lebanon unless Israel stopped its "iron fist" measures against Palestinians in the occupied territories. "We announce that an Israeli prisoner we hold has now entered the danger zone and might face a black destiny if the criminal Zionists do not stop their brutal measures against our Muslim people in occupied Palestine," said a statement signed by the Islamic Resistance. The hand-written statement, delivered to an international news agency in Beirut, conformed to the usual style of the group but was not accompanied by any proof of authorship. The Islamic Resistance said in February 1986 it had captured two Israeli soldiers in South Lebanon. It has since given no information on their fate. The Amal militia also captured an Israeli pilot whose fighter was downed during a raid on Palestinian positions in Sidon in October 1986. The Islamic Resistance usually claims attacks in the south on Israeli troops and their South Lebanon Army (SLA) allies (see story below). The group said the threat to kill the Israeli was "to introduce a new element in the confrontation with the enemy and to support the blessed uprising in the occupied land."

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Fayez returns

AMMAN (J.T.) — Lower House of Parliament Speaker Atef Al Fayez returned to Amman Monday after leading Jordan's delegation to meetings in Tunis of the Arab Parliamentary Union (APU). The APU meeting voiced support for the Palestinian uprising and called on Arab countries to work towards a collective strategy to counter Israel.

Ramadan meets Kaufman

BAGHDAD (AP) — Gerald Kaufman, the foreign affairs spokesman for Britain's opposition Labour Party, met with a top Iraqi official Monday to discuss the Gulf war. Baghdad Radio said First Deputy Prime Minister Taha Yassin Ramadan reiterated Iraq's commitment to a peaceful settlement through implementation of U.N. Security Council Resolution 598. Kaufman arrived in Baghdad Saturday. He met with Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz Sunday.

Mubarak visit to Tunis postponed

TUNIS (R) — Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak will not visit Tunisia, which restored diplomatic relations with Cairo this month, during his current foreign tour, the Egyptian embassy said Monday. Ambassador-designate Ali Maher told Reuters that Mubarak would not stop off in Tunis Friday after a trip to Morocco as reported last week by the semi-official Egyptian newspaper Al Ahram.

Siniora, Abu Rahme meet U.N. chief

UNITED NATIONS (R) — Two prominent Palestinians from the occupied territories, newspaper editor Hanna Siniora and lawyer Faleh Abu Rahme, conferred Monday with Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar. The two men were in Washington last week where they urged U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz to support establishment of a U.N. peacekeeping force to protect inhabitants of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

Mellor, Murphy discuss Mideast

WASHINGTON (AP) — A top British official met Monday with American officials to express support for the just-concluded U.S.-Soviet nuclear arms treaty and exchange views on the Middle East. State Minister for Foreign Affairs David Mellor met for an hour with Assistant Secretary of State Richard Murphy to discuss the latest U.S. and European efforts to revive stalled peace talks in the region. Murphy reported to Mellor on the visit to Jordan that negotiator Philip Habib made over the weekend on behalf of President Ronald Reagan, officials said. Habib returned to Washington Monday, but the White House said it did not have any progress to report on his talks with King Hussein. Mellor reported to Murphy on his recent visit to Israel and the occupied territories.

Ozal to visit Athens

DAVOS (R) — Turkish Prime Minister Turgut Ozal said Monday he planned to go to Athens later this year in the first of an exchange of visits to improve relations with Greece. Ozal and Greek Prime Minister Andreas Papandreu had a final breakfast meeting Monday after agreeing over the weekend to improve ties (See page 2).

Arab views conveyed to Holy See; talks centre on Israel's arbitrary practices

King, Pope discuss Mideast situation

By a Jordan Times Staff Writer with agency dispatches

VATICAN CITY — His Majesty King Hussein Monday held talks with Pope John Paul II at the Vatican on the situation in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza and means for alleviating the plight of the Palestinians under Israeli occupation.

A statement issued by the Vatican following the talks said the Palestinian issue was a "question of international justice."

The Jordan News Agency, Petra, said the King underlined the need for intensified efforts for

land for peace and safeguarding the rights of and security of all peoples in the Middle East.

Petra said the King discussed with the Pope efforts to end Israel's practices of imposing collective punishment on Arabs, evicting Arabs from their homeland and starving the Palestinian population. The King and the Pope emphasised the need for Israel to respect and abide by the principles of world peace, the agency added.

King Hussein conveyed to the Pope the Arab World's deep satisfaction and delight over the pontiff's appointment of a Palestinian Arab as patriarch of Jerusalem. Father Michel Sabbah, a Palestinian born in Nazareth, was named by the Pope as Roman Catholic Patriarch of Jerusalem, last month. Petra noted that the King's talks with the Pope came in line with a resolution adopted by the Nov. 8-11 Arab summit held in Amman which authorised His Majesty to follow up and intensify dialogue with the Vatican over the Middle East issue and convey the Arab and Islamic nation's noble and honourable stands with regard to Arab issues and the problem of Jerusalem. The King held a closed meeting

achieving just and durable peace based on justice "which should come through an international peace conference and the implementation of U.N. Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 which call for the exchange of



Pope John Paul II



His Majesty the King

Jordan sees new U.S. proposal falling short of peace conference

AMMAN (R) — Jordanian officials responded cautiously Monday to reports of a new U.S. Middle East peace initiative and a cabinet minister said it failed to match Arab demands.

Occupied Territories Affairs Minister Marwan Duda said the U.S. proposal, as reported in news media, fell short of Arab demands for a U.N.-sponsored international peace conference.

"I have seen nothing in writing, but if we take the report seriously, it doesn't compare well with the Arab consensus," Duda told Reuters.

Israeli sources said Sunday Washington had put new proposals for Palestinian "self-rule" to Israel and Jordan in a bid to break the deadlock in efforts to settle the Palestinian problem.

President Ronald Reagan sent veteran envoy Philip Habib to Amman Saturday with a message for His Majesty King Hussein about the occupied territories. No details on the message have emerged.

The Israeli sources said the plan involved limited "self-rule" for the West Bank and Gaza, with talks on the territories' final status to start within a year among Israel, Jordan, Egypt and Palestinian representatives. Duda said the Arab position calling for an international forum was expressed at the Amman summit in November. The reported U.S. idea met none of the Arab points "and doesn't seem to move in a direction closer to ours."

Information Minister Hani Al Khasawneh said Jordan welcomed "any real and serious movement aimed at solving the Palestinian problem ... and any move to hold an international conference."

"That's why the King received Mr. Habib personally," he told Reuters.

The King, now in Italy at the start of a European tour, has criticised Washington's reluctance to throw its weight behind an international conference under U.N. auspices.

He told the Washington Post last week the United States was influenced by Israeli extremists, "people who cannot see beyond tomorrow or the day after tomorrow, let alone years from now."

PLO studying proposal

A senior adviser to Palestine

Mubarak sends message to King

ROME (Agencies) — His Majesty King Hussein Monday received a message from Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak on the outcome of the Egyptian leader's recent talks with European and American leaders on efforts for peace in the Middle East.

The message was delivered to the King by Egyptian Foreign Minister Esmat Abdul Meguid, who flew to Rome from Paris, where he arrived Sunday accompanying Mubarak on an official visit.

The Jordan News Agency, Petra, said the message dealt with the outcome of Mubarak's visit to the U.S. and Europe and efforts for convening an international peace conference on the Middle East.

The King, now on a visit to Italy, conferred with Abdul Meguid in a meeting attended by Royal Court Chief Marwan Al Qasem, Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri and Court Minister Adnan Abu Odeh at his residence in Rome.

Following the meeting, Abdul Meguid told reporters: "My visit to Rome was to deliver a message from President Mubarak to His Majesty the King... which deals specifically with the peace process."

Abdul Meguid, who was returning to Paris later Monday night, declined to discuss details of the meeting or of the message.

An Egyptian spokesman in Paris said before Abdul Meguid left for Rome that he was carrying a message briefing the King on the position of the United States following a meeting between Mubarak and U.S. envoy Philip Habib Sunday night.

Habib mission
In Washington, the White House said Monday it does not have any progress to report from Habib's mission.

"We don't have any breakthrough to report, but the president clearly wants to offer the services of the United States in any way possible," White House spokesman Marlin Fitzwater said.

He said Habib was looking for potential solutions and that if the United States "can be asked Meese about the investiga-

Israeli soldiers, settlers open fire on Palestinian protesters, kill two

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Israeli soldiers and settlers shot dead at least two Palestinians in the occupied West Bank Monday amid reports that settlers had kidnapped 30 Arab children from a refugee camp in a bid to pressure anti-occupation protesters into ending the ongoing uprising in the West Bank and Gaza.

Reports said Israeli troops opened fire in the West Bank village of Anabta when hundreds of demonstrators hurled stones at their vehicle and an Israeli car at a makeshift road block set up by the residents.

An army spokesman said, however, that it was still unclear whether troops or Jewish settlers in the car had opened fire on the Palestinians. A settler was critically wounded on Sunday when Arabs hurled a fire bomb at his car.

Hospital officials at Tulkarem hospital near Anabta identified the dead men as Maad Shaar, 21, and Murad Hamdallah, 17.

They said three Palestinians in the hospital were suffering from moderate gunshot wounds and they believed five more Arabs, including a woman in serious condition, were taken to hospital in Nablus.

Troops shot and wounded four more Palestinians during stone-throwing protests in the West Bank town of Bnei Naim and the Jenin refugee camp, the army spokesman said.

In the Anabta clash, a bus carrying soldiers, two cars and a police vehicle were trapped between the barricades and



Palestinian protesters clash with Israeli soldiers in Nablus

pelted with stones, the spokesman said. Some of the Israelis got out of their vehicles and opened fire, killing two Arabs and wounding one, she said.

"We don't know yet who did the shooting, soldiers or civilians," said the army spokesman.

An army patrol then arrived to rescue the Israeli motorists and opened fire to disperse the demonstrators, hitting two other Arabs.

Mohammad, 22, who declined to give his full name for fear of reprisals, told AP the

clashes took place in front of an elementary school near the main highway and lasted about four hours.

He said Israelis who came in private cars were armed and participated in fighting demonstrators. He said some came from a nearby settlement but said he didn't recognise any faces.

Another witness who demanded anonymity told the AP at one point soldiers used mosque loudspeakers to call on parents to take their children home. He said he went to get his children and he and other parents were

clubbed. Soldiers immediately clamped a curfew on Anabta but allowed residents to bury their dead relatives. Protests began in Tulkarem after the casualties were taken to hospital there, eyewitnesses quoted by Reuters said.

The Israeli defence minister, Yitzhak Rabin, reacting to the first killing of protesters since he announced earlier this month that troops would beat Palestinians rather than shoot them, said:

"It must be clear to the residents of the territories that we

(Continued on page 3)

Resistance says 15 Israelis, SLA men dead or wounded

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Resistance fighters said Monday they killed or wounded 15 Israeli soldiers and allied militiamen in a pre-dawn clash in South Lebanon.

The Islamic Resistance said in a statement its guerrillas stormed two positions manned by Israeli troops and militiamen of the Israeli-backed South Lebanon Army (SLA) near Barachit, eight kilometres from the Israeli border.

"Our Mujahideen (holy warriors) destroyed the two positions, knocked out three enemy vehicles, including a tank, and killed and wounded 15 enemy elements, including Israeli soldiers," the statement said.

The Islamic Resistance comprises Shi'ite Muslim fundamentalists fighting against Israel in South Lebanon. The loose coalition is dominated by the Iranian-backed Hizbollah (Party of God).

The Voice of Hope, a radio station based in South Lebanon and manned by the SLA, said dozens of guerrillas "tried to storm" the hilltop positions but were "repulsed by the SLA and the Israeli army."

The Israeli financed, trained and armed SLA patrols a narrow strip of Lebanese territory along the southern border. The so-called "security zone" was established by Israel in 1985 after the withdrawal of the bulk of Israeli forces from Lebanon, ending a three-year occupation.

The SLA positions at the villages of Rashaf, Hadatta and Barachit lie at the edge of the "security zone."

The Islamic Resistance statement said its fighters launched the attack under artillery cover and later clashed with the SLA for 30 minutes.

The group said Sunday it clashed with the SLA for two hours and SLA radio said one militiaman was wounded when rockets smashed into his position at the edge of the zone.

Islamic Resistance said Sunday's fighting was near Maydon village on the edge the "security zone."

The group said the clash began when a joint force of Israeli troops and SLA militiamen tried to advance south of the zone.

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — U.S. Attorney General Edwin Meese denied involvement Monday in any attempt to bribe Israeli officials in connection with an Iraqi oil pipeline deal and said an investigation would clear him of any alleged wrongdoing.

Issuing a statement on reports he had received a memorandum from a business colleague in 1985 suggesting the Israelis be bribed to go along with the Pipeline deal, Meese said he had two brief contacts with Israeli officials on the matter in 1985 but neither were at his initiative.

"At no time was there any discussion, hint or implication of a payment to any official or political party" Meese said in reading his statement to Justice Department reporters.

Fitzwater said President Reagan has not talked to Meese about the case, which has rocked Washington as well as Israel.

"It is a matter before the independent counsel. It's not appropriate," Fitzwater said when asked why Reagan had not asked Meese about the investiga-

Israeli policies in focus at human rights forum

From Salameh Ne'matt in Geneva

ISRAEL'S handling of Palestinian protests in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip and its policy of "might, power and beatings" are expected to take centre stage and draw a heated debate and condemnation this week at an extensive review of human rights violations around the world.

Senegalese delegate Alioune Sene, elected chairman of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights (UNCHR) which opened a six-week meeting here Monday, set the tone for the debate on the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip in a speech shortly after his election.

"Apartheid and its harmful consequences for Namibia and southern Africa, as well as the tragic events in the occupied Arab territories which we daily see through horrifying pictures — these events bring home the urgent problems we must consider," Sene said. "We must maintain the dignity of everyone."

Most delegates agree that Israel's "iron-fist" policy and its heavy-handed methods of use of live ammunition against Palestinian protesters will dominate the first week of the UNCHR's meetings, which begin in earnest Tuesday after Monday's opening formalities.

In his speech Monday, Sene called for the "restructuring of the United Nations system" and for finding "better ways to implement the principles of human rights in the world."

The veteran Senegalese diplomat and politician called for the establishment of a "global strategy" on human rights and for developing new mechanisms to safeguard human rights in the world.

Elected by acclamation, Sene singled out human rights violations in the occupied territories, South Africa and Central America as the worst and most persistent. He said that events in these regions emphasised the need to safeguard people's right to self-determination and to work towards protecting individual civil and political freedoms.

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze and U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz will meet in Moscow on Feb. 21-23 to prepare for a fourth superpower summit and help draft a treaty on cuts in strategic weapons, TASS said Monday.

The official Soviet news agency cited Foreign Ministry spokesman Gennady Gerasimov as the source of its report.

Shevardnadze and Shultz met several times in 1987 to set up last December's meeting in Washington between U.S. President Ronald Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev. The two leaders signed a treaty then to ban intermediate-range nuclear missiles.

Reagan and Gorbachev also agreed to meet for a fourth time during the first half of 1988 in Moscow, and said they would seek an accord to cut their long-range nuclear weapons by 50 per cent.

Gerasimov said Shultz's visit would take place in part "to conduct the necessary preparation of the draft treaty on 50 per cent reduction of the strategic offensive arms of the sides and to create conditions for President Reagan's forthcoming visit to Moscow to end with a concrete result as has Mikhail Gorbachev's visit to Washington."

He said Shultz and Shevardnadze would discuss other matters "that will be topical at the time of the visit."

Shultz said in a television interview Sunday that a strategic arms treaty on a 50 per cent reduction could be reached this year, but that it would be difficult.

Shultz also flatly rejected the possibility that Washington would soon negotiate a reduction in short-range battlefield nuclear weapons in Europe, as the Soviet Union and West Germany have advocated.

"We're not going to agree to that," Shultz said. "It's not in the priority of things to negotiate about right now," he said.

He reaffirmed that NATO's arms control priorities are a strategic arms treaty, a reduction in conventional forces and a worldwide ban on chemical weapons.

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Iranian 'moderates' reportedly seeking end to Gulf conflict

NEW YORK (R) — The Iranian "moderates" involved in the U.S. arms-for-hostages swap are secretly promoting a deal to end the Gulf war with Iraq, Newsweek magazine has said.

Citing "well-placed Middle East sources," the weekly says the moderate Iranians are using back channels — "European politicians and international businessmen" — to effect a ceasefire in the seven-year-old war.

The deal entails Iran's dropping its demand for the ouster of Iraqi President Saddam Hussein. In exchange, Iraq would accept responsibility for starting the war and agree to pay huge reparations.

Iran is reportedly short of recruits to mount its annual winter offensive, Newsweek said.

The moderate Iranians, who worked with Washington to trade U.S. hostages in Lebanon for weapons, are talking to sources

involved in the U.S. arms-for-hostages swap are secretly promoting a deal to end the Gulf war with Iraq, Newsweek magazine has said.

The secret arms-for-hostages deal — which also entailed the diversion of profits from arms sales to the Nicaraguan contra rebels — was made public more than a year ago.

Meanwhile, the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, Vernon Walters, said Sunday that he thought the eight-year-old Iran-Iraq war might end this spring because the warring parties are getting tired of fighting.

"There is a certain amount of exhaustion" in the two countries, Walters told a news conference. He said he believed that Iran "is getting the message that members of the U.N. Security Council

would like to put a stop to the killing." Walters was in this Swiss ski resort attending an international economic conference. He was part of a panel discussing regional conflicts.

In a speech to the conference, he said he believed the Iran-Iraq war could end "around April or May." Asked at the press conference why he thought this, he said "I just have a feeling."

In his wide-ranging speech, Walters said he supported continued aid to the contras who are fighting the leftist Sandinista government in Nicaragua. "We have to keep the Sandinistas at the negotiating table. If Congress rejects aid to the contras I don't think the Sandinistas will continue negotiating."

Addressing the Arab-Israeli conflict, Walters said a resolution of the problem would come only if the two sides made compromise

Israel has to give something and the Palestinians have to give something," he said.

He said he was reluctant to outline a peace plan, but that it would have to include provisions for the continued existence of Israel with secure borders as well as giving the Palestinians some right to representation and possibly their own state.

Turkish Prime Minister Turgut Ozal, on the same panel, said that if the Iran-Iraq war continues, "it will increase the danger of the spread of fundamentalism. If the war is stopped, the danger will stop," he said.

Ozal said that to end the war, "a dialogue between each individual Gulf state and Iran on a bilateral basis is necessary." He praised the recent decision of the Gulf Cooperation Council to ask the United Arab Emirates to have such talks with Iran.

French mediator contacts Abu Nidal group

BEIRUT, Lebanon (AP) — French mediator Lucien Bitterlin has established contact with representatives of the Abu Nidal group in an effort to win the release of two French girls held hostage, a Palestinian source said Monday.

The source said Bitterlin met at the tiny Palestinian refugee camp of Mar Elias with representatives of the Fatah Revolutionary Council, a Palestinian group headed by Abu Nidal, whose real name is Sabri al Banna.

"Bitterlin and Fatah Revolutionary Council representatives left Beirut for an undisclosed location late Sunday to pursue the discussions," said the source, who insisted on anonymity. He also refused to say where Bitterlin was taken.

In addition to west Beirut, Abu Nidal has bases in South Lebanon and Syrian-occupied northern and eastern provinces.

Bitterlin, head of a pro-Arab French lobbying group, said on arrival in Beirut Sunday that he was certain the two girls, Virginie, 5, and Marie-Laure, 6, would be freed shortly.

Abu Nidal's group said in a Nov. 8 statement that the girls, their French mother, Jacqueline Valente, 30, and five Belgians were seized aboard the French yacht *Silko* off the Israeli-occupied Gaza Strip.

It is not clear if the girls carry their mother's family name or that of their father, Pascal Bettel, from whom Ms. Valente is separated.

In a later statement, the group asked to negotiate with Bitterlin to secure the transfer of the girls to an Arab capital for their release.

"I expect their release very soon," Bitterlin said Sunday. "I came (back) at the request of the captors. I think my current visit will last a few days."

In Paris, Bettel told a news conference Sunday that he was "very worried" about his daughters.

"I call on public opinion and President Francois Mitterrand" to help get the children freed, said Bettel, who added that he had been disappointed by the unfulfilled promise by Bitterlin last month.

Bitterlin, a former Gaullist parliament member and present head of the Franco-Arab Solidarity Association, held talks with Abu Nidal's representatives in Lebanon in January, then flew to Libya for further discussions on the issue.

Libya is Abu Nidal's main base. The elusive terrorist leader has topped wanted lists in the United States and Europe since he split from the mainstream Fatah, the Palestine Liberation Organisation's largest group, in the early 1970s.

Firefighters tackle blaze on drifting freighter in Gulf; 22-man crew saved

DUBAI (R) — Firefighters aboard a tug battled a blaze on a drifting and abandoned 15,241-ton freighter in the central Gulf Monday and shipping sources said its 22 crewmen had been taken to Iran.

The Panamanian-flag *Mare* was attacked Saturday and the whereabouts of its crew had baffled rescuers for nearly two days.

One shipping source said the crewmen had been taken to Iran's northern Gulf port of Bushehr where he believed the ship had been heading when it was attacked by Iranian Revolutionary Guards by mistake.

Another shipping source said the vessel was coming from Bushehr.

Early reports from Gulf-based sources said an off-course Iraqi jet had attacked the ship, but later Monday they said Iranian Guards operating from Farsi Island in the northern Gulf hit the vessel some 60 miles north of Bahrain.

The shipping sources said the attack was a mistake and the Guards apparently realised their error and rescued the crew.

"I think (the Iranians) made a mistake and after the attack rescued the crew themselves," one source said.

The Guards attacked the ship around midday Saturday, the sources said.

The attack came only hours

after Iraq claimed it had attacked and hit two vessels near the Iranian coast within nine hours.

Lloyds Shipping Intelligence Monday named one vessel hit by attacking Iraqi warplanes as the 231,712-tonne tanker *Khark* owned by the National Iranian Tanker Company.

The *Khark* operates on Iran's oil-shuttle run ferrying oil from the north of the waterway to the safer waters of the south for customers to lift Tehran's oil exports.

The freighter *Mare* was first spotted ablaze Sunday and shipping sources said the damage to the ship looked like that caused by an Exocet missile, the usual weapon of the Iraqi air force in attacking Iranian shipping.

Shipping sources said the blaze was in the ship's engine room. The sources did not know the nationalities of the crew.

Meanwhile a Singapore-based salvage firm was quoted Monday as saying three, not two, crewmen of one of its tugboats have been killed off Iran, but denied the deaths resulted from an Iraqi missile attack on the small craft.

A Gulf-based shipping executive said the captain and chief engineer of the tug *Salvare* were killed in an Iraqi air raid on an Iranian supertanker, the *Coral Cape*. They had boarded the supertanker to help deal with dam-

age it sustained in an earlier attack.

The source, who asked not to be identified, said he had no information about a third death.

The London-based Lloyds Shipping Intelligence Unit said it had received a message from the Senco Salvage Co. Pte Ltd. of Singapore, saying "we confirm the death of the chief engineer, chief officer and bos'n of *Salvare*."

"This occurred while engaged in fire-fighting operations on another vessel. The tug was not attacked nor is she damaged in any way."

The company statement did not name the three. Neither did it identify the other ship, or provide any details of the fire-fighting operation.

The bodies of the tug's British captain, Roger Hall, and Filipino chief engineer, Rosendo Borros, arrived in Dubai Saturday, according to sources there.

The Cyprus-flag *Coral Cape* is one of the shuttle tankers used by Iran to carry oil from its big Kharg Island terminal in the northern Gulf to other, safer terminals farther south.

Iraq regularly attacks these ships in an attempt to disrupt Iran's petroleum industry.

Senco has a number of its tugs under charter to Iran to assist the state-operated tanker fleet.

Iran, Syria press for release of West German

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Iran and Syria exerted mounting pressure on Lebanon's Hizbollah (Party of God) group Monday to secure the release of kidnapped West German engineer Ralph Schray.

A pro-Syrian source told Reuters that Brigadier Ghazi Kanaan, head of Syria's military intelligence in Lebanon, was exerting strong pressure on the kidnappers to free Schray.

"He is holding constant meetings and talks with quarters that influence the captors with that aim... the kidnappers promised to free Schray but did not set a date," he added.

A Muslim militia source said Iranian diplomats have joined the Syrian efforts to free Schray. "They (Iranians) are working to end this issue and there are big hopes it will end happily very soon," he said.

He said Kanaan, sent by Syrian President Hafez al-Assad to secure the release of Schray, held a three-hour meeting with senior officials of the Shi'ite Hizbollah group Saturday.

Hizbollah has repeatedly denied links to the abduction of the 25 foreigners missing in Lebanon, believed kidnapped.

But Schray's relatives say they were told that Abdul Hadi Hamadi, a Hizbollah military official, had planned the abduction to pressure Bonn to release his two jailed brothers, Abbas Ali and Mohammad Ali.

"Kanaan was seeking Hizbollah's help in putting pressure on Hamadi to release Schray," the militia source said.

Kanaan has refused to answer reporters' questions on his mission.

Six gunmen seized Schray, a 30-year-old engineer with a Lebanese mother and a West Ger-

man father, a few blocks from a Syrian checkpoint in mainly Muslim west Beirut Wednesday.

The kidnapping challenged Syria's role in the western sector of the city where it deployed more than 7,000 troops last February to curb militia anarchy.

A top opposition militia source said Schray's kidnapping was planned without Iran's knowledge or approval and Tehran feared the abduction would strain its ties with Damascus, its main Arab ally in its war with Iraq.

Iran wields considerable influence over Lebanon's Shi'ites and a senior Muslim security source said earlier this month its Revolutionary Guards based here held some of the Western hostages, including British church envoy Terry Waite.

An Iranian delegation visiting Lebanon Sunday condemned hostage-taking and said Iran was still trying to secure the release of all hostages, including three Iranians and their Lebanese driver, who went missing in Lebanon in 1982.

Abdul Hadi Hamadi's brother Abbas Ali is in trial in Düsseldorf on charges of involvement in kidnapping two West Germans in west Beirut a year ago.

His brother Mohammad Ali was arrested at Frankfurt airport on charges of carrying explosives and was later identified as one of the hijackers of a TWA airliner in 1985.

The uncle of Schray said Sunday he expected his nephew to be freed "soon, perhaps any minute."

"He should have been out yesterday (Saturday), but there has been some complication it seems," George Abu Nassar, a Lebanese businessman of Palestinian descent, told the Associated Press.

Jews divided over Israel's handling of revolt

NEW YORK (AP) — The largest Jewish community in the United States is much more critical of Israel's handling of the Palestinian revolt in the Israeli-occupied territories than are Jews in Israel, according to a Gallup Poll released Monday.

However, the poll conducted for New York Newsday newspaper found Jews in New York City and on Long Island are still strongly supportive of Israel.

Thirty-nine per cent of Jews polled said the treatment of the

Palestinians during the revolt was "too harsh," thirty-eight per cent said it was "about right."

Six per cent said it was "too lenient" with the remainder saying they either didn't know or hadn't heard of the situation.

In a Gallup Poll for Newsweek magazine taken three weeks ago of Jews in Israel, 46 per cent said the treatment was "about right" and 40 per cent said it was "too lenient." Only 7 per cent called the policy "too harsh" and 7 per cent expressed no opinion.

Israel denies helping in Philippine counter-insurgencies

MANILA (R) — Charges by Communist rebels that Israeli intelligence units were participating in the Philippine government's counter-insurgency drive are baseless, Israel's embassy in Manila said Monday.

Rebel spokesmen told a Manila-based Australian journalist at the weekend that Australians, Britons and Israelis have become

targets for attack because of involvement in the offensive against the Communist New People's Army (NPA).

"The embassy of Israel categorically denies any role in the counter-insurgency in the Philippines and insists that the allegations... on this subject are completely baseless," spokesman Itzhak Gerverg said.

Chad releases Yugoslav seized in Libyan air base

N'DJAMENA (R) — Chad freed Monday a Yugoslav seized in N'Djamena for five months after being seized in Libya.

Rade Zelenovic, 58, a Yugoslav mechanic working for a West German firm, was seized last September by Chadian forces during a lightning attack on the Maatun As Sarra Air Base in southern Libya.

He was handed over to the head of the Africa desk at the Yugoslav Foreign Ministry, Danilo Milic, at a ceremony in the Chadian capital N'Djamena which was attended by journal-

ists.

Chad's Acting Foreign Minister Ouanoumouching Homssala said his government was releasing Zelenovic on humanitarian grounds.

Milic said Zelenovic had told him he had been treated well during his five-month detention. Both men were due to leave Chad for home Tuesday night.

In Belgrade, the state news agency Tanjug said Chad initially suspected that Zelenovic had been working with Libya's intelligence service.

TV & RADIO	
JORDAN TELEVISION Tel: 77311-19	
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Karak, Tafleleh telephone network inaugurated

KARAK (Petra) — The government is currently concentrating its efforts on developing the southern regions of the Kingdom. Minister of Transport and Telecommunications Khaled Al Haj Hassan said here Monday.

He said the government was acting upon directives from His Majesty King Hussein which called for improvement of all public services in the south.

Haj Hassan was speaking at a ceremony in Karak inaugurating the new telecommunications project for the Karak and Tafleleh governorates, which should provide automatic telephone service to 80 towns and villages.

The total cost of the project was JD 12.5 million, partly covered by a Japanese loan, according to the minister, who said that the project was considered one of the major integrated schemes to

be implemented in the Kingdom through the Japanese easy-term loan.

During his inspection of the new telephone exchange, Haj Hassan was briefed on the services offered to the public. The exchange unit installed in Karak serves Karak, Tafleleh and their neighbouring towns and villages.

The project entailed laying telephone networks and setting up 12 main and sub-stations, in addition to constructing 31 buildings in various areas to house equipment and auxiliary telephone exchanges.

At the outset of the tour, the minister visited the Karak governor's house, where he held a meeting with local officials to review postal and telephone services in the region.



Prime Minister Zaid Rifai confers with Kuwaiti Minister of Education Anwar Abdullah Al Nouri in a meeting attended by Minister of Education Thounqan Hindawi and Minister of Higher Education Nassereddine Al Assad (Petra photo)

Jordan and Kuwait to increase cultural, scientific exchange

AMMAN (J.T.) — Prime Minister Zaid Rifai Monday conferred with Kuwaiti Minister of Education Anwar Abdullah Al Nouri, who later signed an executive programme for the implementation of a cultural and scientific exchange agreement between Jordan and Kuwait.

During the meeting at the prime minister's office, Rifai and Nouri discussed promoting bilateral cooperation in education.

The meeting was attended by Minister of Education Thounqan Hindawi, Minister of Higher Education Nassereddine Al Assad and Kuwaiti Ambassador to Jordan Ibrahim Al Bahou.

The exchange agreement, signed by Hindawi and Nouri, aims to increase cooperation between educational institutions in Jordan and Kuwait through, for instance, assigning three seats for

Kuwaiti students at Jordanian universities in return for a similar measure by Kuwait.

The two sides agreed that the Kuwaiti Ministry of Education would employ Jordanian teachers in its schools, and said both countries would exchange visits by educational officials and specialists.

In culture and arts, the two sides will exchange publications and cultural exhibitions and visits by artists.

In the field of information, Jordan and Kuwait said they would facilitate entry of media delegations into each country, and would exchange television programmes.

In sports and youth affairs, the two sides agreed to encourage visits by sports and youth centre teams for training and matches.

They also agreed to provide opportunities for training Jordanian physicians and specialists at the Kuwaiti nuclear medicine

and radiation centre.

After the signing ceremony, Hindawi accompanied Nouri on a visit to a vocational school for girls in Ruseifa, where they were briefed on the school's programmes and training facilities.

The director of vocational training at the Education Ministry told the visitors that his department was planning to open 10 vocational schools for girls and six for boys in different parts of the Kingdom in 1988.

Director of Education in Zarqa and Ruseifa Tayseer Asala said that the Ruseifa school, which cost JD 1 million, has nearly 1,000 students and 60 teachers. The school contains 13 workshops, lecture halls, a library, a laboratory and recreational grounds.

Nouri arrived in Amman Sunday evening for a four-day visit, during which he is expected to hold more talks with Jordanian ministers and senior officials.

2 murders discovered in Azraq

By Ahmad Kreishan
Special to the Jordan Times

AZRAQ — The bullet-riddled bodies of two men were found in the Azraq region northeast of Amman, and police said they were investigating the case.

The police identified the two victims, who they said came from Zarqa and Marka but did not disclose their names.

One of the victims was found lying in a taxi car owned by a taxi office, while the other was found

lying on the ground some 300 metres away from the car.

The two bodies were moved to Al Bashir Hospital in Amman for autopsy, where the coroner confirmed that the deaths resulted from the gunshot wounds.

Police sources said that five female workers in a local factory were treated for food poisoning at Al Bashir Hospital. The five had eaten sardines and hummus and drank tea. The girls were between 17 and 23 years old.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Princess Basma opens art exhibit

AMMAN (Petra) — Her Royal Highness Princess Basma Monday opened an art exhibition by Basem Badranah at the Housing Bank Centre in Amman. On display for one month are 30 paintings depicting Islamic ornaments and decorations. The proceeds of the exhibition will benefit needy and diabetic people.

Cabinet creates new department

AMMAN (Petra) — The Cabinet has decided to create a department at the Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment to conduct studies on municipal and village councils. The new department will gather information about the councils' activities and design projects to benefit these councils.

Tender for school construction approved

AMMAN (J.T.) — Minister of Public Works and Housing Shafiq Zawadeh has approved a tender awarded to a local construction firm for building a school in Marka, at a cost of JD 452,000. The school will offer vocational training in car body maintenance, auto mechanics, electricity and central heating.

Saudi health delegation to visit

AMMAN (Petra) — A delegation from the health ministry in Saudi Arabia will arrive here on Feb. 13 for a five-day visit. The delegation will discuss with officials here the prospect of benefiting from Jordan's health expertise.

Arab-American leader passes away

YONKERS, New York (J.T.) — Nader Z. Samareh from Zarqa, a leading force in the Yonkers Arab community, has passed away at the age of 34 after suffering from cancer. Samareh served as president of the Arab-American Council in Yonkers since 1985; and as a long-time member of the organisation, helped to improve understanding between Arabs and Americans in the community.

AAU to attend session on Arabsat

AMMAN (Petra) — The Amman-based Association of Arab Universities (AAU) will take part in the 4th session of the joint Arab committee on the use of satellites for information, culture and development due to convene in Tunis Friday. The AAU will present a working paper to the meeting on using Arabsat to develop higher education.

Soldiers, settlers kill 2 Arabs

(Continued from page 1)

shall continue with our policy aimed at achieving calm, even if it takes a long time.

"We shall conduct a policy of force to prevent violent activities when they are taking place. We shall continue to arrest participants in violent activities, organisers and agitators," he told reporters in parliament.

"We shall use curfews to prevent violent demonstrations, and at the same time we shall allow those who wish to go to work to do so, and to those who wish to conduct commerce we shall provide protection," Rabin said.

Troops arrested dozens of Palestinians in an overnight raid on the market area of Nablus following clashes Sunday in which six people were wounded by gunfire.

The army clamped a curfew on the entire city of Nablus, home to 100,000 Palestinians and the largest city in the West Bank.

Several refugee camps in the West Bank and the Al Bureij camp in the Gaza Strip were also under curfew Monday following protests, the army said.

In the village of Betu, clashes took place throughout the morning between soldiers and demonstrators. Reporters saw a dozen soldiers charge into village firing tear-gas. The entrance to the village was blocked with boulders.

Meanwhile in Tunis, a senior Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) official said armed Israeli settlers seized 30 school

children Monday from the Dheisheh refugee camp.

Bassam Abu Sherif, an adviser to PLO leader Yasser Arafat, told Reuters that Israeli soldiers clamped a curfew on the camp and clashed with inhabitants after the seizure of the children, who were aged 12 and under.

Gangs of settlers forced their way into the camp, situated between Bethlehem and Hebron, and took the children to an unknown destination, he said.

Abu Sherif said the motive for the settlers' action was unclear, adding that information on the incident came direct to PLO Tunis headquarters from the West Bank.

Abu Sherif appealed to United Nations organisations, in particular the U.N. Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) to intervene to save the children.

A Palestinian group in Damascus also reported that 30 Palestinian children had been kidnapped.

"According to information we received from the occupied territories we learned that the settlers kidnapped 30 children from the Dheisheh refugee camp," the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) said in a statement.

It said the abduction was part of Israeli attempts to end Palestinian protests in the occupied territories.

The PFLP said Israeli troops had destroyed telephone links to Palestinian camps to try to stop news about the uprising spreading.

By Alistair Lyon
Reuters

JURF AL DARAWISH — Dancing Dervishes seeking spiritual power may have spun and twisted in Wadi Jurf 800 years ago, giving this Jordanian desert village its name.

But the adherents of the mystical Muslim sect are long-gone and the modern villagers are more interested in the electric power generated by whirling windmills and solar panels.

Jurf Al Darawish, 170 km south of Amman, is the site of a project studying whether a hybrid system of renewable energy sources can provide power for Jordan's remote villages.

The village was once a Dervish prayer centre. Now most of its 652 residents herd sheep and goats or work at a nearby phosphate mine.

Two 20-kilowatt West German-built windmills were instal-

led here this year, alongside a row of solar water heating panels, and 15-kilowatt U.S.-made photovoltaic cells, which use the sun's rays to generate electricity.

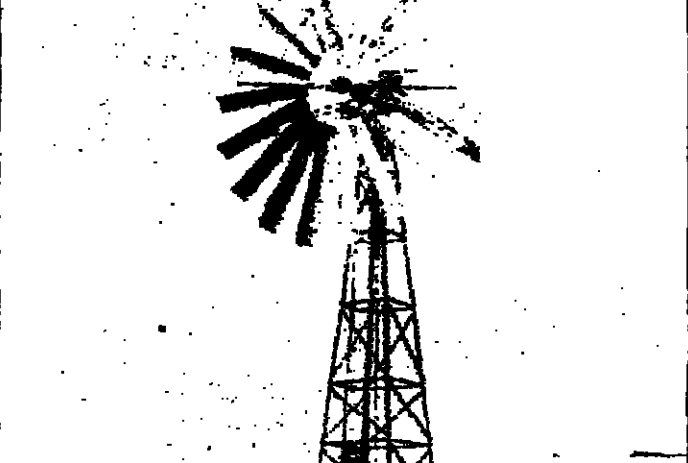
Back-up batteries store energy in case the wind drops and the sun stays hidden. A pumping station three km away also runs on wind power. A concrete hut houses a computer to monitor and distribute the power.

The integrated system, which cost about \$2½ a million, is already lighting houses, streets and the local clinic and will irrigate land.

"We want to show people they can plant vegetables and trees. Given water, the land is suitable for vegetation," said Mohammad Amar, project manager at Jurf Al Darawish.

"We plan to have a model farm with four greenhouses and we will experiment with different irrigation methods."

Electricity is already available



Electricity-generating windmill at Jurf Al Darawish (File photo)

Jurf Al Darawish electrified

AMMAN (Petra) — Electric power was supplied Monday to Jurf Al Darawish, a remote village some 170 kilometres south of Amman, benefiting the village's 300 inhabitants.

The electrification project was a joint venture by the Royal Scientific Society (RSS) and the Jordan Electricity Authority (JEA), and included the installation of two windmills and solar panels.

The project also entailed installing a high voltage network, setting up 136 pylons and laying cables and low voltage distribution panels, as well as installing lights along the village roads.

RSS sources said that the project, the first of its kind in Jordan, was aimed at providing power for remote areas outside of the national power grid. More projects like this would, ultimately, reduce Jordan's reliance on imported fuel for generating electricity, the sources said.

for 96 per cent of Jordan's estimated 2.8 million population, concentrated in urban centres and farmland.

"The four per cent without electricity are dispersed over 40 per cent of the country's area," said Rizeq Ta'ani, head of the wind energy section at the Royal Scientific Society (RSS) which is running the remote village project.

"We believe solar and wind energy can play a big role in remote areas," he told Reuters.

Agricultural exports to Arab countries decreasing as marketing problems persist

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan's agricultural exports to neighbouring Arab countries and Gulf states have decreased lately due to political and economic factors, and in part, to Jordan's failure to successfully market its produce in these countries, Minister of Agriculture Marwan Hmoud said Monday.

Addressing representatives of Jordan Valley farmers, the minister said that along to these factors, the Gulf states have begun to curtail agricultural imports in general, as they succeed in developing their own agricultural production.

In addition, Jordanian produce is often priced higher than agricultural commodities from Turkey and a number of East European countries, thus allowing the latter to compete more successfully in Arab markets, according to Hmoud.

He said that the European markets cannot absorb large quantities of Jordanian produce, as they import agricultural commodities only during certain periods of the year. This year, Jordan will export a total of 7,000 tonnes of crops to European countries in accordance with signed agreements, the minister added.

The government realises the problems encountered by farmers in Jordan, especially in marketing crops locally and abroad, and consistently offers assistance to them, Hmoud pointed out. To help solve these problems, the Ministry of Agriculture has been advising farmers to reduce production of traditional crops and increase production of crops in

great demand here and abroad, he explained.

Hmoud said the ministry was applying the agricultural patterns system with the purpose of overcoming marketing problems. He noted this system was not rigid and could be modified according to demand and supply.

Last December, the director-general of the Jordan Agricultural Marketing and Processing Company (JAMPCO) said that despite government efforts to increase agricultural production in Jordan, the agricultural sector

was still incapable of meeting the country's growing consumption demands.

Ghazi Abu Hassan said in a lecture at the University of Jordan that the country continued to suffer from shortages in certain crops and surpluses in others, in addition to facing marketing problems.

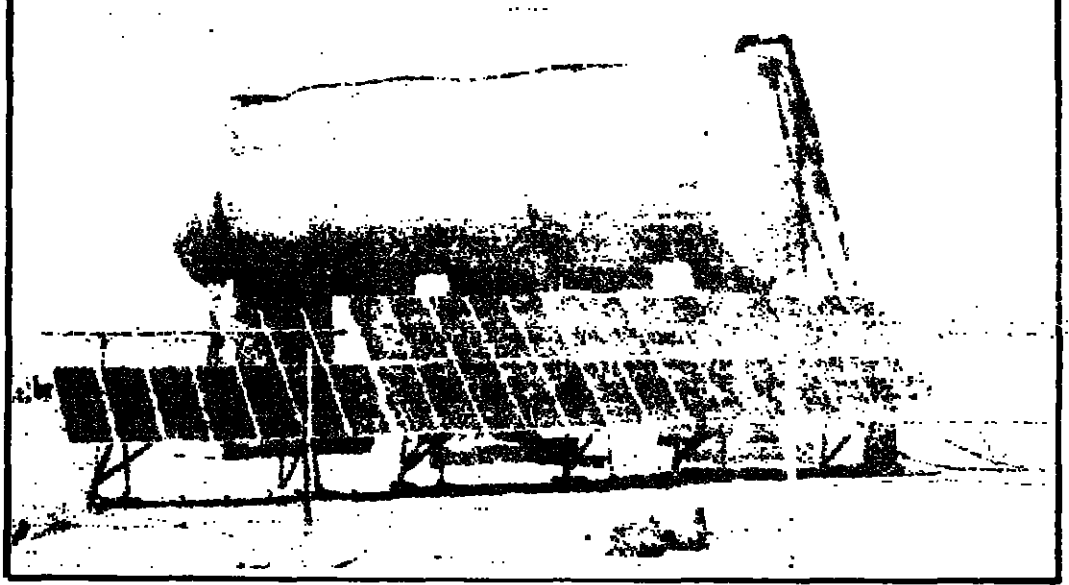
During their meeting with Hmoud, several farmers spoke about difficulties they encounter and the need to find new markets for their crops. The farmers urged the government to fix interest rates on their loans.

Before the meeting, the minister opened an exhibition of fruit and vegetables grown in the Jordan Valley, in addition to new strains of crops being introduced to the valley, including fruit from tropical regions.



Minister of Agriculture Marwan Hmoud Monday consults with a Jordan Valley farmer after opening an agricultural exhibition (Petra photo)

Jordan seeks to harness sun, wind power for remote villages



Solar energy installations at Jurf Al Darawish (File photo)

"These systems are cheaper than high-voltage transmission lines or diesel generators," Ta'ani said.

Photovoltaic systems have been installed in nine remote locations and they power water pumps at five sites.

"These can mean a lot in the desert, where otherwise they have to truck fuel to generators in all-terrain vehicles," said Marwan Mahmoud, head of the RSS solar energy research centre.

"A small amount of power can solve problems. A two-kilowatt photovoltaic unit can pump, say, 30 cubic metres of water a day from a well 20 to 30 metres deep."

He said one unit able to pump 140 cubic metres of water daily can run in the desert for two years with minimal maintenance.

"If we are to develop desert agriculture and stop people from

migrating from rural areas, we must bring them water and electricity where they are," Ta'ani said.

Jordan, which produces only one per cent of its oil needs, also hopes to cut its oil import bill by using renewable energy and encouraging conservation.

"Any conservation is like finding oil or gas," said Energy Minister Hisham Khatib. "Now 25 per cent of the population uses solar energy for heating water, especially in rural areas."

"The growth in our energy consumption has been reduced to less than the growth in our economy. I believe we are the first country in the region to achieve this," he said.

The ministry plans to have four wind turbines in action by April at Ibrahimiyah, a flat hilltop in north Jordan selected for the country's first "wind-farm."

All Anani, manager of the ministry's renewable energy department, said the power would feed into the national grid.

The output and costs would be monitored for a year, he said. "We will then decide whether to go commercial and invest in the manufacture of spare parts, like blades, in Jordan."

Anani said wind power was

ideal to meet peak demand now supplied by expensive gas turbines.

Jordan imports about three million tonnes of crude oil and oil products a year but the cost varies with world prices.

Central Bank figures put the bill at \$144 million for the first nine months of last year, compared to \$350 million in 1980 and \$670 million in 1985. Officials say Kuwait makes undisclosed gifts of crude as part of its aid to Jordan.

The Energy Ministry runs information centres in Amman and the northern town of Irbid to advise citizens on how to cut their fuel bills and to receive complaints and requests.

"Comments from consumers have stimulated a new research programme into damp control," Anani said. "We are also testing products like solar panels to guide local manufacturers."

The RSS and the ministry are using Italian government funds for a joint two-year study on designing energy-saving buildings.

"We will produce a design manual to help architects improve the efficiency of buildings so that they require a minimum of heating in winter and cooling in summer," Anani said.

King, Pope discuss Mideast situation

(Continued from page 1)

with the Pope before being joined by Royal Court Chief Marwan Al Qasem, Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri and Court Minister Adnan Abu Odeh.

The Pope warmly greeted the King, and told him, in English, "God bless Jordan, your family and your people."

The Vatican statement issued after Monday's meeting said: "The Holy See considers the problem of the Palestinian people a question of international justice, no less important than that of the existence and security of Israel and of all the states in the region."

The statement also went to the heart of the other key issue blocking diplomatic relations between Israel and the Vatican — the status of Jerusalem.

It said the Holy See had stressed "the sacred character of the city, considering it a spiritual patrimony which belongs to the three monotheistic religions."

In separate talks, Vatican Secretary of State Agostino Casaroli told the King the Vatican appreciated his peace efforts. He said: "It is indispensable to unite the efforts of everybody of good will. The situation is very dangerous."

King meets Cossiga

Later, King Hussein met with Italian President Francesco Cossiga and discussed with him questions of common interest to Jordan and Italy.

The King explained the outcome of the Amman Arab summit and its resolutions, specially those pertaining to the Middle East issue, the Gulf conflict and the Lebanese crisis.

The King said that the uprising in the occupied territories calls for speedy moves for convening an international conference to find a lasting settlement for the Arab-Israeli conflict in implementation of Resolutions 242 and 338.

The two sides stressed the need for ending the Gulf conflict by peaceful means and through the implementation of Security Council Resolution 598 and safeguarding sovereignty of all countries in the Gulf region and the imposition of sanctions on the party which fails to abide by the resolution.

King Hussein said that by adhering to its present policies Iran can never achieve anything from this war except more destruction for the Iranian people and instability for Iran and the other countries of the region.

Queen visits hospital

Queen Noor Monday visited a paediatric hospital in Rome known for its work in children's heart surgery.

The Queen spent the morning at the hospital "Bambin Gesù" greeting convalescent children and signing autographs in the heart surgery and other wards.

During her visit she congratulated the hospital president, Marcello Sacchetti, and his team on their successful work in heart surgery and invited them to visit Jordan.

She was presented with a bouquet of flowers by a 13-year-old boy who read her a message in Arabic. In the hospital's playroom she received drawings by the children of her standing next to the Jordanian flag.

Mubarak sends message

(Continued from page 1)

expeditions in getting people to talk and getting some results on track, so much the better."

However, there is "nothing to report at this time," Fitzwater said.

Mubarak voices urgency

In Paris, Mubarak said Monday that an international conference on peace in the Middle East was more urgent than ever and that if nothing was done soon, the Palestinian revolt in the Israeli-occupied territories would get worse.

"Peace is a precious thing," Mubarak told reporters after a three-hour meeting with President Francois Mitterrand. "We must sacrifice everything for it."

The Egyptian president is on a two-day visit to France. He was scheduled to meet with Premier Jacques Chirac before leaving for Morocco Tuesday.

"The uprising in the occupied territories is in fact the result of unsupportable repression exercised by the Israelis against the Palestinians," Mubarak said. "We cannot afford to wait. We must absolutely relaunch the dynamic of peace."

FEEL FINE WITH FINE

Dr. A. KAREEM AL-ZAKA
Paediatrician & Neonatologist
MB, Ch, B. D.C.H. M.R.C.P. in Paed./London
Consultant Paediatrician at King Hussein Medical Centre and previously at the hospital for sick children/ Great Ormond Street/ London.
Announces the opening of his clinic
Jabal Amman, Ibn Khaldun Street, Near Al Khaldi Hospital, Facing Rawhi Pharmacy.
Tel. Off. 649449, Res. 813707

Jordan Times

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The press as catalyst

IN the midst of the ongoing Palestinian uprising in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, a pause is in order to pay tribute to the women and men of the news media, who have bravely and honourably portrayed this revolt, focusing the world's attention on the centrality of Palestinianism in the quest for durable peace in the Middle East. This news media — newspaper reporters and television crews — have courageously chronicled the unfolding events in the occupied territories in a remarkable and moving way that touched hearts and provoked consciences throughout the world. The credibility with which it depicted the brutality of the Israeli occupying forces attempting to quell this Palestinian uprising has indeed helped to galvanize world public opinion, including Jewish public opinion, in support of the struggle and aspirations of the Palestinians.

Where would the Palestinian uprising be without the catalytic role of a free and responsible press? Would the tears, blood and agony of the Palestinian people go unnoticed or unrecognized as a part of a compelling human struggle for freedom and liberty? Let us forget, was it not a free and responsible press which accelerated the process of ending the savagery of the Vietnam War? Is it not true that whenever and wherever a free and responsible press was denied access to the scenes of conflicts, these conflicts persisted? From this follows the conclusion that one of the most effective ways to end conflicts is to promote and facilitate the honourable role of a free and responsible press, in order to drive home the horrors of wars, the insanity of attempts by one people to enslave another and the causes of right against might.

We salute the reporters and T.V. crews who were either harassed or beaten up by Israeli troops to prevent them from carrying out their honourable and indispensable duties in the West Bank and Gaza during the past eight weeks. If it is any comfort to them, their hardships and suffering were definitely not in vain.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: King promotes Arab cause

KING Hussein's tour in European countries comes at a time as the uprising in occupied Palestine is being escalated against intensified repressive measures by Israeli forces against the Arab inhabitants. On the eve of his tour, the King told the West German magazine Der Spiegel about the realities and the situation in the Middle East region and the crux of the Arab-Israeli conflict, which is the Palestine problem. The King reiterated Jordan's demand for an international peace conference and also the superpowers to shoulder their responsibility towards peace in the region. The King is carrying to the European nations the Arab Nation's views with regard to the Palestine problem and will discuss the Arab-Israeli conflict and the question of an international conference with the European leaders. He is going to demand that peace based on justice be established and that the U.S. should be made to respond to the call of the international community and exercise pressure on Israel to conform to the will of the nations of the world and the requirements of peace. Israel's rejection of the conference's idea coupled with U.S. backing, is now impeding the convening of this conference which is designed to implement Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338.

Al Dustour: King calls for conference

KING Hussein reiterated Jordan's stand with regard to the Middle East issue and called again for the need to resolve it through an international peace conference. The King made the statement on the eve of his European tour where he hopes to enlist more support for the conference's idea and the rights of the Palestinians in their homeland. The King called on the international community and world organizations to help solve this problem which has been plaguing the peoples of the Middle East. His call came amidst intensified Israeli acts of aggression and oppression to quell the Arab people's uprising. His call for an international conference is more urgent now in view of the developments in the occupied Arab territories and as more and more world nations are supporting a durable settlement for this problem. The King will be presenting Jordan's views as well as those of the Arab countries which support such views and call for a just settlement.

Sawt Al Shaab: King outlines Arab stand

KING Hussein outlined the Arab stand with regard to the situation in the Middle East in a statement published by the West German magazine Der Spiegel. In his statement the monarch said that the members of the U.N. Security Council bear a serious responsibility towards re-establishing peace in the Middle East based on the implementation of Resolutions 242 and 338. He also stressed the need for the PLO to be invited to an international conference along side the other concerned parties in the Arab-Israeli conflict provided that the organisation renounce violence and accept the two resolutions. The King made it clear that the whole issue must be settled on two levels: With the Palestine people represented by the PLO, and with the Arab governments which support the PLO in its endeavours. The King is advocating this cause and Arab views during his tour abroad, and he is relentlessly seeking the recognition of the Palestinian people in their homeland. The monarch made it clear also that Jerusalem which stands out as a symbol of peace should return to its Arab sovereignty.

The View From Second Circle

Let the statesmen step forward

By Rami G. Khouri

WHILE the Palestinians in Palestine have spent the last two months in sustained expression of their national aspirations, most of the western world, and particularly the international press, has been asking wrong or irrelevant questions.

1. The Palestinian outbreak was no surprise at all, given that the Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza have been under Israeli military occupation for 20 years, that concentrations of Palestinians throughout the Arab hinterland — in the Mashrek, Maghreb and Gulf — are unable to express their sentiments in an organised political manner, and that the Palestinians, with the support of the rest of the Arabs, have been struggling for national rights, personal freedoms and human dignity since shortly after the turn of the century. It is only the sustained and widespread scale of the latest uprising, rather than its nature or meaning, which is novel this time around.

2. Questions of who leads the uprising are simplistic, and largely irrelevant, despite their frequency these days. The Palestinians are not engaged in a popularity contest, or a Semitic version of the United States' Democratic Party primaries to choose a leader from among nearly a dozen hopefuls or would-be pretenders. Most western analysts — many of whom have spent the past two years trying to write off the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) as a political has-been — have spent the past two months wondering about the PLO's role in the present events. The fact is, whether they like it or not, that the uprising is the logical, organic culmination of the preservation, nurturing and sustenance of the Palestinian national identity which has been championed, almost single-handedly, by the PLO for the past 20 years.

It is true that the PLO has not achieved any substantive political advances in the last two decades, in the sense of liberating occupied land: what it has done, and this is the true significance of both the PLO and the current uprising, is to have fortified a Palestinian national identity that the world was prepared to forget in the 1960s. As such, the uprising is the culmination of the current historical phase of Palestinian nationalism, and the epitome of the national identity which the PLO has symbolised for the last two decades.

3. Most Arab leaders and public commentators have warned for years that the Arab-Israeli and Palestinian-Israeli status quo would not last forever, without an appropriate reaction, which has now come. Why is it that the world assumes a whole new Palestinian leadership has suddenly emerged in Palestine and taken over from the PLO, as we hear from many Western analysts? The indigenous leadership in the West Bank and Gaza is asking for precisely the same things the PLO and the Arab states have sought for most of this century, or since the patriarch of the modern Hashemite dynasty, Sherif Hussein of Mecca, engaged the British colonial leadership in a quest for Arab sovereignty and dignity in 1915. The young men on the streets of the West Bank and Gaza, the Palestinians in Israel, the PLO leaders in Tunis and Baghdad, the Palestinian refugees in camps in several Arab states, and middle class Palestinians throughout the Arab World and further afield, all aspire to the same goal: National self-determination.

4. We are witnessing today a historic development that parallels

the period after 1967. After the 1967 defeat, the Palestinians decided to take their destiny into their own hands, having seen that the international community and the Arab states were unable to grant the Palestinians their national rights. The new generation of Palestinian leaders which emerged after 1967 reasserted the Palestinian struggle for national rights, using all possible means, including diplomacy and acts of violence and terror. Now, 20 years later, the same thing has happened again: A Palestinian population beset with a sense of hopelessness, disgruntled with pan-Arab and international efforts and aware of the strength of the right-wing Likud faction in Israel, has turned to itself, to its identity and to its own activism.

This is a natural development in a historical conflict which started with the birth of modern political Zionism in 1896, and which will reach its 100th anniversary in eight more years. While everyone was so busy last year noting the 20th anniversary of the Israeli occupation of the West Bank and Gaza, did nobody notice that 40 years — which makes a generation — have passed since the creation of the state of Israel by the United Nations in 1947?

5. In the early 1970s, having fortified itself with confidence and self-respect, the Palestinian leadership started to shift from armed struggle to diplomacy. The Palestinians made the momentous decision to accept a partition of Palestine and to seek a Palestinian state in the West Bank and Gaza, with East Jerusalem as its capital. Having caught the attention of the world, the Palestinians showed political maturity and diplomatic courage, but success was elusive.

The Israelis were not impressed, and Palestinian calls for coexistence were ignored by the vast majority of Israelis. Today, the Palestinians are at a similar juncture in their struggle for national rights. They have once again taken matters into their own hands, and have once again caught the attention of the world. This time, though, they are operating in an environment in which there are many more Israelis who are willing to consider the idea of ending the occupation, partitioning Palestine and coexisting next to a Palestinian political entity whose specific nature remains to be defined by all concerned parties.

It is not ironic that since the late 1970s, a new generation of Israelis has also come to power, preaching messianic right to all the land of Palestine. As Palestinian nationalism asserts itself again and again, every time in a more dynamic and dramatic manner, we should not be surprised that an increasing number of Israelis during the past decade have reacted by negating the existence of a Palestinian nation. Yet, some Israelis have reacted by recognising the reality of Palestinian nationalism, and expressing their willingness to coexist with it.

The most important question about the Palestinian uprising today, therefore, is not who leads it, or why it happened, but rather how it might effect political change among Israelis. There are intriguing signs — which started with the Likud overtures to the Palestinians last year — that some Likud officials have started to appreciate that the Arab-Israeli conflict can only be resolved on the basis of the principle of the simultaneous exercise of national rights and sovereignty by both Palestinians and Israelis. We will find out

in the coming year if the majority of Israelis accepts the Likud vision of Zionist control of all of Palestine, or the more humanistic, sustainable and realistic vision of a Palestine which accommodates two nationalisms, of both Israelis and Palestinians.

6. The short-term effect of the uprising and the harsh Israeli response has been to refocus the historical Palestinian-Israeli conflict on its essence — the struggle in the land of Palestine between the indigenous Palestinians and the Zionist Jews who came to Palestine from other countries. Other concerned parties may play a role in resolving the conflict, particularly in terms of securing global acceptance of an international conference to negotiate Arab-Israeli peace. But the vital dynamic of struggle has returned to Palestine itself, to the small strip of land between the Mediterranean and the Jordan River. The key protagonists in 1988 are the same ones that engaged in the conflict at its inception — the indigenous Palestinians and the opposing Zionists.

The Palestinians, like all other people in the world, are composed of several symbiotic groups, simultaneously bolstering and authenticating one another. The people on the land, their indigenous leaders in Palestine and in PLO institutions further afield, a demographic hinterland of Palestinians in other countries, allied Arab states in the region, and friendly states in other parts of the world.

7. The situation today offers both opportunities and dangers. The opportunity is two-fold: a) for Israelis, and their supporters in the United States government, to recognise the depth and intensity of this resurgence of Palestinian nationalism, and to respond to the Palestinian and Arab calls for a negotiated settlement based on the mutual rights of Israelis and Palestinians to national self-determination and security; and b) for a self-confident and proud Palestinian leadership to translate its political gains on the ground into realistic diplomatic advances. This will require the Israelis and Americans to accept the reality of Palestinian national rights and to respond to the Palestinian national leadership, the PLO, and it will require the PLO to show flexibility and skill in making short-term compromises that would allow a meaningful negotiation to be launched.

The danger — and its signs are already clear — is that the Israelis and the Americans will try once again to nurture a fake Palestinian leadership by trying to emphasise a false dichotomy between the PLO and an indigenous "new leadership" in the West Bank and Gaza. Israeli and American efforts may focus on trying to launch a limited negotiation based on specific local demands in the occupied territories. The key to success will be the ability of both sides, particularly the Israelis and Palestinians, to maintain the focus of negotiations on the overall, historical and national nature of the Palestinian-Zionist struggle that will mark its centenary in eight years' time.

The activism and reassertion of the Palestinians in Palestine have provided us with the most significant real opportunity for justice and peace in the Middle East to come along for decades. This is the significance of the Palestinian uprising. Let the statesmen on both sides now come forward and seize that opportunity.

Educated Afghans don't want Islamic republic

By Scheherazade Faramarzi
The Associated Press

PESHAWAR, Pakistan — Afghanistan's best-educated citizens seem split over the role of Islam in a future government, with some hoping for an Islamic state and others for a secular republic.

Some analysts in Pakistan, where some 4 million Afghan refugees live, expect those who favour a secular state to lose out in any power struggle if Soviet troops withdraw.

"This minority cannot change the destiny of Afghanistan," said Mohammad Ishaq, a former professor of literature at Kabul University. "The best it can do is try not to be enslaved by its political system."

But it is unknown what effect on a future government could come from educated Afghans now in Kabul, many of whom have Soviet training and who presumably could favour a secular state.

About 6 per cent of Afghans have university education. Educated Afghans interviewed in Peshawar believe most of these educated citizens, along with the guerrillas fighting the Soviet-backed government and the nation's population overall, would opt for some form of Islamic state.

However, many forms of Islamic government are possible. The nation could be ruled by a religious leader; have a lay government but Islamic-style religious laws; or almost completely secular with Islam recognised nonetheless as the state religion and its practice officially encouraged.

Struggling on 2 fronts

One educated Afghan, who requested anonymity, said that during the eight years of Soviet intervention, intellectuals who favour a secular state have had to struggle against both the Soviets and the Muslim fundamentalists.

"If the fundamentalists take over, I would never go back. Any kind of government where I will not have the right to live and speak my own mind is not acceptable," he said.

But other educated Afghans favour an Islamic society.

This group, mostly university graduates, once supported a Western-style democracy, said Ishaq, 48. But he said they became disillusioned over America's involvement in Vietnam, and over "the negative aspects of Western civilisation, like sex movies and carelessness about religion."

This group turned first to Communism, but was disappointed after the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan in 1979, Ishaq added.

"So they tried to go back to their own values of Islam," he said. Some of these are believed

to have joined the guerrillas.

Ishaq and others interviewed believed Afghanistan would probably never become an Iranian-style state ruled by religious leaders. The Sunni Muslim sect, which dominates in Afghanistan, does not have a tradition of the type of religious hierarchy that exists in predominately Shi'ite Muslim Iran.

Women would suffer most

Educated women might feel the greatest effect if a hardline Islamic government should come to power in Afghanistan. Already some of the religious leaders have expressed their belief that women shouldn't vote or participate in political life.

Fatima, a 34-year-old graduate in literature from Kabul University and former teacher at Afghanistan's Persian Literature Academy, says she wants Islam respected in the country. But she is against strict religious rules that would prevent women from sharing equal rights with men.

"I would like to see a government which is not Communist. It doesn't matter if it is Islamic, as long as it is not fanatic like in Iran. The most important thing will be the way women are treated," she said.

Kamelah Ghias, 21, who studied in the United States and runs a video shop in Los Angeles, was in Peshawar visiting relatives. She feels Afghan society treats women "like animals."

She, too, doesn't want to return if the country becomes strongly Islamic.

"If men don't want us around, then they can have the whole country to themselves," she said.

Most Afghans who live in camps around Peshawar do not allow their women to go out of the house, even veiled.

One Afghan man, Saeb Shah Rahmani, said women had no political judgment.

"What do they understand?" he asked.

Educated Afghans interviewed in Peshawar expressed doubt that Western-style democracy would ever emerge in their country. But they favoured their future leaders coming from among those now fighting the Communists inside Afghanistan, rather than those delivering speeches in Peshawar and to the media.

Such popular figures include the guerrilla commanders Ahmad Shah Massoud, Ismail Khan, Ostad Farid, Abdul Haq and Jaleuddin Haqqani.

"It is not a question whether they deserve it or not," said Ishaq. "They have the power in Afghanistan. Without them, it will be difficult to bring stability to Afghanistan."

Mohammad Ashour Ali, 35, a refugee at the Martanu camp south of Peshawar, said the days of Zahir Shah, who was king before the 1978 Communist takeover, were good.

The divided people of Rafah

By Tom Porteous

RAFAH, Egypt — Tangled in an overhead electricity cable, the Palestinian flag flutters in the sea breeze above one of the muddy streets which runs between the rows of low breezeblock houses of a refugee camp. Several hundred yards away, in Israeli occupied Gaza, on "the other side" the light blue "Star of David" flies above a grey concrete machine-gun tower.

In between stretches the wide no-man's-land of barbed wire and steel fencing which marks the limit of Israel's withdrawal from Sinai in 1984. They call it the "shouting fence," because until the troubles started last month, the divided people of Rafah were allowed to gather at the fence at certain times of day and shout greetings and messages at one another across the 40 yards of tangled wire. For the young Palestinian men of Canada camp, stranded in Egypt six years ago, this shouting was their only contact with friends and relatives on "the other side."

Now, because of the uprising in the occupied territories, the shouting has had to stop. Since what is widely believed to have been a Palestinian attack on an Israeli patrol from the Egyptian

side of the fence in December, the Egyptian authorities have bulldozed a wide security road along their side of the wire. Egyptian police stationed at regular intervals along the new road keep people politely and firmly to keep away from the fence.

Nonetheless, the proximity of the rioting in the Gaza Strip now imposes itself regularly on the Palestinians stranded on the Egyptian side. "Almost every day we can hear the shouting and then the shooting and then the screaming and the crying. When they [the Israelis] throw the tear gas it is blown across the fence and we can feel it in our eyes. And when we hear someone has been killed we know we shall soon discover he was a neighbour or a friend, an uncle or a cousin."

Recently the boys of Canada camp have taken to demonstrating in response, shouting and screaming and burning tyres, to release the tension and to let friends and cousins on the other side know that they are with them. No one I spoke to on the Egyptian side said the Egyptian authorities had tried to break up these demonstrations, much less fired on Palestinian demonstrators, as alleged by the Israeli prime minister, Yitzhak Shamir. On the contrary some said sym-

pathetic Egyptian authorities had given the young Palestinians tyres to burn, and Egyptian police were keen that I should speak to anyone I wanted to.

For six years the 7,000 Palestinian refugees of Canada camp have been waiting to be allowed to leave their unsanitary settlement, once a camp for a Canadian peace keeping force, and return to their friends and relatives in the Gaza Strip. Until they do, Rafah is a divided city: A dusty little Berlin at the south eastern corner of the Mediterranean. The bleak steel fence separates the Palestinians of Canada camp from friends and cousins, and in some cases husbands and wives, children and parents on the other side. The unrest in the territories has deepened their desire to return.

The Israelis normally allow only women, children and older men to visit the Gaza Strip: One visit per person every six months. The permit costs 150 Egyptian pounds (\$70). "For all of us that is too much," said Mohammad, a 24 year old university graduate who runs the cafeteria in the camp's main street. "But even if you do get a permit, the Israelis sometimes make a point of tearing it up in front of you at the border and sending you back to

the camp... for young men like me it is forbidden to visit the other side altogether."

Prospects are bleak for the young men of Canada camp, even though many of them have spent a small fortune (more than \$5,000 in some cases) on a university education which is automatically free for their Egyptian contemporaries. Egypt, which administered the Gaza Strip from 1948 until the '67 war, is grappling unsuccessfully with overpopulation and unemployment at home. The government gives few privileges to the Palestinian refugees of the camp, who are formally denied such rights as owning land.

In the battle waged in the camps between hope and despair, *Al Intifada*, the uprising now boiling in the territories — or what several young men called *Al Thawra* (the revolution) appears to be a most valuable weapon against despair. It has given us, he said, Mohammad in the flydown cafeteria of Canada camp. Away in the north we could make out the monotonous drone of the vigilant Israeli reconnaissance plane circling above occupied Rafah. "The only hope is return to the homeland!" The Middle East International, London.

Saudis move closer to Soviet Union

By Aly Mahmoud
The Associated Press

MANAMA, Bahrain — The visit to Moscow of Saudi Arabia's foreign minister, Prince Saud Al Faisal, has fuelled speculation the kingdom may resume diplomatic ties with the Soviet Union after a 50-year break, a move with far-reaching implications in the region.

Ostensibly, the three-day visit is part of King Fahd's campaign to enlist support from the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council for the Gulf Cooperation Council's effort to mediate a ceasefire in the Iran-Iraq war.

The 7-year-old conflict and fundamentalist Iran's threat to the conservative Gulf Arab states is the region's biggest worry. Moscow is energetically seeking to end the fighting, a move that has boosted its standing in the Arab World.

Saudi Arabia and the Soviet Union opened diplomatic ties in 1926. But 12 years later, Joseph Stalin broke off relations.

The Soviets have been courting the Gulf Arabs since Mikhail Gorbachev came to power, seeking to widen their influence in the strategic region.

Resuming relations with Saudi Arabia, the non-Communist world's largest oil producer and a long-time U.S. ally, would be a major triumph for Gorbachev.

Apart from political considerations, the Soviets in the long-term look to the Gulf as a future source of oil.

U.S. studies indicate that the Soviet Union, currently the world's largest oil producer, will in the next few years have to start importing oil to meet its energy requirements and those of its allies.

Under Gorbachev, the Soviets have made diplomatic gains across the Arab World and have made overtures toward Israel. Moscow has aimed its new focus mainly at moderate Arab states traditionally aligned with the West.

Despite U.S. intervention in the Gulf to protect shipping from Iranian attack, there is resentment at Washington's support for Israel and its clandestine arms sales to Iran. Most Arab states support Iraq in the Gulf conflict.

The Soviets backed the Security Council's July 20 resolution for a Gulf war ceasefire, but have been reluctant to support slapping an arms embargo on Iran for failing to comply with that resolution.

The Soviets, by maintaining relations with both sides in the war, have some leverage in Tehran that could help the Gulf Arabs in their quest for a ceasefire. But just how far Moscow can go in Tehran remains questionable.

The Saudis have indicated in the past that they would be willing to weigh the feasibility of resuming diplomatic relations with Moscow if the Soviets withdrew their troops from Afghanistan.

Saudi Arabia, a Muslim state whose royal family calls itself guardian of Islam's holiest shrines, has for decades rejected Communism as akin to atheism and refused to have diplomatic ties with East bloc countries.

discuss "matters of mutual interest" in Moscow, underlining the contention that much was at stake in the Moscow visit.

Abu Dhabi's Al Itihad newspaper quoted Prince Saud as telling its Moscow correspondent that he "does not exclude discussion of restoring diplomatic ties between Riyadh and Moscow."

Soviet foreign ministry spokesman Gennady Gerasimov said Prince Saud will confer with Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze and President Andrei Gromyko.

The Kuwaiti connection

Kuwait's Al Anbass daily said the Kuwaiti government was instrumental in arranging Prince Saud's visit which it claimed was aimed primarily at "reestablishing diplomatic relations between the two countries" and discussing other issues, including Afghanistan.

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The Kuwaiti news agency reported from Moscow that Prince Saud's discussions will focus on ways of ending the Gulf war, the Palestinian uprising in Israeli-

occupied territory and other topics.

Prince Saud last visited Moscow in 1982 at the head of an Arab League delegation for talks on an Arab-Israeli peace settlement.

Like the Soviets, the Saudis and other Arab states are seeking an international Middle East peace conference.

Saudi Arabia is the leading GCC power. The military and economic alliance also groups Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, Oman, Bahrain, and Qatar.

Kuwait, Oman and the UAE have already established diplomatic relations with the Soviet Union.

The Soviets also maintain a sizeable military presence in South Yemen, the only Marxist Arab country.

Over the past year, the Soviets have expanded their military presence in the Gulf and now have nine or 10 Soviet warships there.

The United States had deployed at least 30 naval vessels in the Gulf, the biggest American armada assembled since the Korean war.

Saudi Agriculture Minister Abdul Rahman Al Sheikh visited China last week in what Gulf diplomatic circles viewed as a signal of a breakthrough in relations between the two countries, which have no diplomatic ties.

Saudi Arabia has diplomatic relations with Taiwan and so far has only commercial and cultural ties with China.



The five-metre-high fence erected around the Dehaishe refugee camp (File photo)

'We have had enough of being caged in'

By Ian Black

AT THE DEHAISHE refugee camp in Bethlehem, on the main road south to Hebron and the Jewish settlements that lie in the surrounding hills, the Israeli army has already reerected the 20-foot wire mesh fence — designed to protect passing traffic from stone-throwers — after the Palestinians inside had sawed through the metal poles that held it up.

As an act of rebellion, the toppling of the Dehaishe fence occupies only a modest place in the (interim) catalogue of six weeks of mass resistance to Israeli rule in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. With 40 Palestinians dead, hundreds wounded, beaten and arrested, a little nocturnal pole-cutting will be barely a footnote in future accounts of the "uprising" that has impressed — if not shaken — the entire world.

But the destruction of the fence, however short-lived, serves as a handy symbol for what has happened in the occupied territories since December 9, when the trouble first erupted in Gaza. "Enough," the Palestinians — in Dehaishe and elsewhere — are saying. "We have had enough of being caged, contained, oppressed and forgotten. We cannot stand it any longer."

Surprise at the scope and level of the uprising is not confined to the Israelis, who are accustomed, after the two decades that have elapsed since the 1967 war, to periodic outbursts of rage from the 1.5 million Palestinians they rule. The Palestinians themselves have been taken aback by the power they have unleashed. And now they seem determined to exploit what they have gained.

"We have achieved more in the last six weeks than we have achieved in the last 20 years," says a left-winger in Ramallah. "Now we have a new yardstick. The uprising will continue."

May be. The gradual lifting of blockades and curfews imposed on all eight refugee camps in the Gaza Strip will be the first major test of Israel's cautious hope that the Arabs have been battered and beaten into submission. Dependence on the Israeli economy — more than the sealed border with Jordan, the much-vaunted efficiency of the Shin Bet internal security service, or the permanent disarray in PLO and Arab

rank — is the one chain that cannot ever be really severed. More than 100,000 Palestinian breadwinners simply cannot stop work indefinitely.

Yet what happens next is, in a sense, less important than what has already happened. "If what the Israelis are trying to do is to break people's backs and stop their resistance, they might manage to achieve a period of calm," said one young refugee in Gaza. "But they have put more hatred into people's hearts and this will create more resistance and more solidarity."

It is hard to argue with this simple conclusion. What really distinguishes this uprising from previous bouts of disturbances is that virtually everyone has been touched by it, even if they have not personally thrown stones or petrol bombs, burned tyres, been tear-gassed, beaten, shot or arrested. "Wherever you throw a stone today," said an old man in the West Bank town of Qalqilya, "you will find a well whose waters will be drunk by future generations thirsting for pride and identity."

Gaza, with the unchanging squalor and misery of its refugee camps, has captured most of the attention these past weeks, and not just because of Mr. David Mellor's outrage. And yet the violent confrontations between Israeli soldiers and Palestinian women and children in the mean alleyways of Jabalya or Bureij are less significant than what has been taking place elsewhere, where people have far more to lose.

Short of conducting a major public opinion poll (impossible under the constraints of military occupation) there is no way of really knowing how Palestinians have changed since December 9. "This is not England," said a harassed shop-owner in Ramallah, looking anxiously at both the teenage Palestinian strike-enforcers and the baton-wielding Israeli Border Policemen across the road. "We are not free to say what we really think."

But actions speak louder than words, and the continuing commercial strikes in Ramallah and East Jerusalem are eloquent testimony to the depth of popular feeling that this uprising is going some-

where. The mobilisation of the middle classes is a novelty that cannot be ignored. So is the rapidly dawning realisation that the accumulated dehumanisation of all classes of Palestinians has had a profound effect in creating a new and almost dizzying sense of solidarity.

"Israel," says a leading nationalist in East Jerusalem, "has created this uprising by default. They have antagonised everyone, whether he is a merchant or a worker. Even the collaborators feel betrayed. In their empire the British created a class of people who benefited from the colonial presence. The Israelis have not done this. And what does all this talk about spontaneity mean? Does it imply that no-one expected it to happen? Then they must be idiots."

The villages, where 60 per cent of all West Bankers still live, matter too. The Israelis recognised this years ago when they tried to create their "Village Leagues" as a counterweight to urban politicians. The majority of those Palestinians convicted for serious security offences — involving weapons and bombs, not stones and tyres — are villagers who have worked inside pre-1967 Israel and seen their own lives thrown into stark and humiliating contrast.

Jewish settlements built on expropriated village land, punishing VAT and income tax for businessmen, the beating and harassment of workers, the closure of universities, the censorship of newspapers, the encroachments of Jewish religious zealots on Muslim holy places mean that there is something bad for everyone in occupation.

"Settlers come from the Soviet Union and build homes with American dollars," complains a conservative West Bank politician, "but a villager cannot get permission to build two more rooms on his ancestral land. If you build without a licence they will demolish your house. If you apply for a licence you don't get it. These are the things that have fed the volcano."

Much has been made — and rightly so — of the new generation of Palestinian children who have grown up under Israeli rule and know no fear. But this is not

just a children's uprising, nor an insurrection of the dispossessed, the have-nots leading on the haves, the refugee camps against townspeople who have never lost their homes.

Mobilisation is a more accurate word than radicalisation. "Smuggling food into the refugee camps and the creation of voluntary popular committees in streets and neighbourhoods is more important than the violence," says a leading radical. "People have gone beyond ideology and have come down to the practical issues. They have learned that dependence is a two-way street and become much more aware of their ability to harm Israel." Elias Freij, the mayor of Bethlehem, and no firebrand, makes the same point: "People have reached one conclusion: No-one is going to help us unless we help ourselves."

The question of organisation remains an important one. The continuing appearance of underground leaflets calling for more strikes and protests attests to the existence of some policy-making, although coordination is bedevilled by perennial disagreements between the mainstream PLO Fatah movement, the DFLP and the PFLP.

The Communists have been sceptical from the start about the absence of clearly defined goals for the uprising and the ability of the masses to stay away from work in Israel. But growing coordination between Fatah and Islamic fundamentalists in Gaza — and the decision to allow people to return to work when the camp curfews are lifted — shows that things are starting to function and that there is some long-term thinking going on. The power is being harnessed. The Israelis simply cannot arrest everyone.

Concrete gains are still hard to imagine. Despite the mounting panic on the Israeli side and the belated emergence of deep domestic divisions about the cost of occupation and the moral bankruptcy of the brutality it requires, the Palestinians have yet to achieve actual political change.

Waiting for the outcome of the next Israeli general elections is no answer. Even if the result is significantly different from the deadlock that produced the para-

lysed national unity coalition in 1984, the Labour Party cannot and will not meet even basic Arab demands.

"If we asked them to stop settlements, would they agree?" asks Elias Freij, without expecting an answer. "If we asked them to accept the Reagan plan, would they accept it? Or implement full autonomy according to the Egyptian model. Or stop the deportations. Or throw Sharon out of the Muslim quarter of the Old City. Would they?"

Thus popular expectations may be exaggerated — in itself a dangerous development for those concerned to keep the occupation working smoothly, especially when Palestinian activists are already complaining privately that PLO money has not come in to underpin the resistance.

"The Zionists are not stronger than America, and we are not weaker than the people of Vietnam," declared one of the leaflets distributed last week in the name of the "United National Command for the Escalation of the Uprising." If rhetoric outstrips reality too quickly, the uprising will ultimately fail.

Yet it has, in a profound way, already succeeded. The Israeli Defence Ministry has placed an order for 10,000 new wooden batons and there is no sign of a let-up in the new spirit of unity that has gripped the Palestinians in the occupied territories, even if, at first glance, "order" of a kind is being restored. The Israelis are a stiff-necked people who have manoeuvred themselves into a historical dead end, and they will put all the fences up again. But behind them, in Dehaishe and elsewhere, things will never quite be the same — The Guardian.

Study finds aspirin cuts heart attack risk

An aspirin every other day keeps heart attacks away

USIA

WASHINGTON — A nationwide study has shown that an aspirin tablet taken every other day can reduce the risk of having a heart attack almost in half.

U.S. heart experts told reporters January 27 that the research provides strong evidence that aspirin, a common painkiller, will be a major weapon against cardiovascular disease, the nation's number one killer. Heart attacks and stroke cause 48 per cent of all deaths in the United States, almost one million deaths each year.

The study, conducted over a period of nearly five years at Boston's Brigham and Women's Hospital, included more than 22,000 male physicians who had never suffered heart attacks or other serious illnesses. The results showed that a buffered aspirin taken every other day cut the risk of heart attack by 47 per cent.

The study was funded by the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute and reported in the January 28 issue of the New England Journal of Medicine.

"There is little reason to suspect that the biologic effects of aspirin would be different in other populations with comparable or higher risks of cardiovas-

cular disease," Dr. Lawrence Cohen, professor of medicine at the Yale University School of Medicine, told reporters.

"Therefore it is possible that thousands of individuals may have their heart attack prevented yearly by the administration of aspirin every other day," he continued. "As such the results of this trial are exciting and have tremendous public health implications."

Consult your physician

Dr. Claude Lenfant, director of the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute, cautioned however that the general public should not take the findings as an indication that everyone should start taking aspirin, and that a decision to use aspirin to prevent heart attack should only be made by a person after consulting with a physician.

"I hope this won't be given to the whole world as a panacea to stay alive forever," he said.

The doctors said that in general anyone with risk factors for heart disease should be considered candidates for routine use of aspirin.

"Men with coronary risk factors such as high blood cholesterol, hypertension, diabetes or a family history (of heart attacks) might well be included as aspirin

takers," Cohen said. "Similarly, even though women have a lower incidence of heart attack than do men, women with risk factors might well be prescribed aspirin to prevent heart attacks."

Medical experts believe that aspirin works by inhibiting the aggregation of platelets, a cellular component of the blood responsible for clotting. At the site of a narrowed artery, platelets form a mesh that ultimately leads to a clot, completely obstructing the flow of blood through the artery.

However, doctors cautioned that aspirin could decrease blood clotting too much in some individuals. For example, the study showed that there was a small, though not statistically significant, excess of death from strokes among those in the study who received aspirin. The strokes were presumably caused by hemorrhaging in the brain.

In the study, which began in 1981, half of the physicians took aspirin for nearly five years while the rest received a placebo, a harmless substitute that looked and tasted like aspirin. There were 104 heart attacks among the aspirin users, five of them fatal, and 189 heart attacks in the comparison group, including 18 heart attack deaths. There were also 80 strokes in the aspirin group and 70 among the others.

World health ministers vow urgent action to combat AIDS

By Caludia Rader
Reuters

LONDON — The world's health ministers Thursday (Jan. 28) pledged urgent action to combat the serious threat to humanity posed by AIDS at the end of three days of the highest-level talks held on the disease.

Ministers and AIDS experts from 148 countries and the Vatican agreed that only "informed and responsible behaviour" would help to stop the spread of AIDS, for which no vaccine or cure has yet been found.

"Since AIDS is a global problem that poses serious threat to humanity, urgent action by all governments and people the world over is needed," a declaration said.

"The single most important component of national AIDS programmes is information and education because HIV transmission can be prevented through informed and responsible behaviour."

Organisers said the conference, sponsored jointly by the World Health Organisation (WHO) and the British government, was the largest gathering by health ministers on any health issue.

Jonathan Mann, director of WHO's special programme on AIDS, called the document an extraordinary example of consensus and said great strides had been made in learning about the disease.

"Two years ago it would have been inconceivable to see a meeting of the kind we have just participated in," he said.

"There will always be differences, there are cultural differences, there are political differences (but) I think it must be stressed that this is an extraordinary consensus... Now it's a matter

of further translating the theory and the consensus into reality."

Programmes and campaigns

Delegates agreed to attack the spread of acquired immune deficiency syndrome with special programmes within their national health systems and to recommend to their governments setting up AIDS coordinating committees bringing together all sectors. Education campaigns should be

NEWS ANALYSIS

culturally appropriate and take into account "different lifestyles, human and spiritual values" in fighting the disease, which is transmitted mainly through sex, blood contact and from mother to child.

Prevention programmes should also safeguard the human rights and dignity of the 75,000 AIDS sufferers worldwide, the five to 10 million people thought to be infected with HIV (human immunodeficiency virus) and those in special risk groups — such as homosexual men and intravenous drug users.

One million people are expected to have AIDS by 1991 and several hundred million others have behaviour that puts them at risk of getting it, according to the WHO.

"Discrimination against, and stigmatisation of, HIV-infected people and people with AIDS and population groups undermine public health and must be avoided," the declaration said.

But it stopped short of condemning countries which have adopted restrictive measures in the face of AIDS such as China and Belgium, which require fore-

ign residents to be tested for AIDS.

WHO officials said the conference had been an excellent opportunity for ministers from the Third World — parts of Africa like Tanzania, Kenya and Uganda have been particularly hard-hit — to learn from the experience of the developed world.

WHO to lead the fight

The declaration called on WHO, spending \$66 million this year on AIDS prevention, to continue to lead the fight against the disease and to support and strengthen national programmes, particularly in developing countries.

Mann praised Africa for its work against AIDS but said lack of resources made it a priority area for help Asia, where the number of AIDS cases is still very limited, was also a priority.

Different approaches

Talks by many of the 114 ministers and 45 senior delegates present revealed widely different approaches to AIDS.

In Denmark, which uses the most straightforward language and images, humour is one of the tools used to get the message across, including six-meter-long posters of condoms on the sides of buses and cartoon booklets on condom use for teenagers. Explicit videos aired on television and at schools show homosexuals and heterosexuals engaged in "safe sex."

In Kenya, prostitutes organised into self-help groups teach each other about "safe sex" through songs and skits and have greatly reduced the incidence of HIV infection among them.

Palestinian press in the uprising

By Daoud Kuttab

THE PRESS has become the latest scapegoat in the Palestinian uprising. Foreign and local journalists are being blamed for the continuation and escalation of the demonstrations. As a result of this claim, journalists are being harassed and kept out of sensitive areas as well as being arrested.

The most common Israeli argument is that the Palestinian demonstrators get excited when they see journalists or TV crews. No explanation, however, has been provided for the continuation of these demonstrations after the press has been kept out of, for example, most of the Gaza Strip. Nor are there explanations for the demonstrations in places where there are no journalists.

The army has distributed copies of a blank order which any Israeli officer can fill out on the spot declaring certain area a

closed military zone. When pushed by journalists, the army explained that any officer has the legal power to declare, verbally, areas to be closed without a written order. In fact one officer explained that the existing law permits an officer to declare an area to be closed military area when a journalist arrives and then to declare it open the moment the journalist leaves.

Palestinian journalists have suffered most. They have been arrested, placed under administrative detention, beaten and intimidated. The newspapers for which they work have been suffering massive censorship, cuts and banning orders. The chairmen of the Arab Journalists' Association, Radwan Abu Ayyash, was placed under administrative detention for six months last December. His deputy, Salah Zuhaila, was arrested in January and is still held. Al

Fajr editor, Hanna Simora, has been arrested and released on bail twice — on both occasions the Israelis were attempting to prevent him calling a press conference. Another member of the Arab Journalists' Association, Sam'an Khuri, has also been placed under six-month administrative detention, as has Hani Issawi, a Jerusalem journalist. Khuri works with Agence France Press. Mohammad Zuhaila, a stringer for a number of local and foreign papers was arrested for two days for questioning about a planned press conference. The border patrol beat him up, leaving scars on his face.

Palestinian newspaper editors are saying that the present censorship is the worst ever. Articles translated from the Israeli press which used to be allowed automatically are now heavily censored. One newspaper, Al Sha'b, was punished with a ten-day clo-

sure because it published a translated article without approval from the censors. Banning newspapers from West Bank and Gaza distribution (other than East Jerusalem) has become a weapon the Israelis often use. The seriousness of the Israelis was seen when they banned the leading paper Al Quds from distribution for a month. It was later reduced to 18 days.

This crackdown has resulted in changes within the Palestinian community. Palestinian journalists are spending more time and effort distributing their information to Israeli and foreign journalists rather than writing it for their own papers. Many believe that this is why Israel started to arrest journalists. Palestinian press people have also acted as guides and escorts, taking foreign journalists to Gaza and West Bank hot spots — Middle East International, London.

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Redskins make Super Bowl history with devastating win over Broncos

SAN DIEGO, California (Agencies) — The Washington Redskins beat the Denver Broncos 42-10 in the Super Bowl Sunday with the most devastating offensive explosion in the history of football's season finale.

The Redskins were sparked by Doug Williams, the first black quarterback to lead his team in a Super Bowl, who was voted the game's most valuable player for completely upstaging his opposite number — football's golden boy John Elway.

For Washington, it was their second Super Bowl victory in six years, the last in 1983. The Broncos suffered their second straight Super Bowl defeat, having lost 39-20 to the New York Giants last year.

Super Bowl XXII was decided in a dramatic second quarter when Washington, trailing 10-0, exploded for 35 unanswered points — the highest tally in a quarter in Super Bowl history.

The Redskins scored on all five second-quarter possessions — four tallies on touchdown passes by Williams which tied a Super Bowl record. The explosion came after the quarterback had limped off at the end of the first quarter with a sprained knee.

Williams, 32, who started the season as Washington's number two quarterback, also broke the record for Super Bowl passing with a total of 340 yards, nearly all in the second quarter.

His principal aides in the demolition of Denver were wide receiver Ricky Sanders and running back Timmy Smith.

Records set

Sanders caught nine passes for 193 yards — a Super Bowl record — with two touchdowns. Smith, a largely unheralded rookie, broke the game's rushing record with 204 yards and also scored two touchdowns.

No first-year player had previously gained over 100 yards in a Super Bowl.

Elway, the focus of most of the pre-game press attention, opened on a stunning note. On Denver's first play, he launched a 56-yard touchdown pass to wide receiver Ricky Nattiel.

But Elway's day turned into a

nightmare. Continually harried by Washington's defence, he completed only 14 of 38 passes and was intercepted three times. His vaunted trio of receivers, the "three amigos," were shut down by the Redskins' defensive backs.

Williams' performance caps a remarkable comeback for a player whose career seemed almost over two years ago.

The former Tampa Bay Buccaneer only won the Redskins' starting quarterback job in the final regular season game before the playoffs. In the two playoff games, Washington scored only 38 points.

For the fifth straight year, the Super Bowl turned out to be a somewhat anti-climactic, one-sided affair.

The Redskins' last win in 1983 was relatively close — 27-17 over Miami. The following year they lost to the Los Angeles Raiders 38-9. Both the Redskins' Super Bowl victories have come in strike-marred seasons.

And it was an eerie reprise for the Broncos, whose coach, Dan Reeves, said they were haunted by their 39-20 loss to the New York Giants in 1987, a contest in which they led at halftime then were outgained 200-2 over the next 20 minutes.

If that was a haunting, this one was a possession.

Consider this:

Williams was playing less than 24 hours after root canal on a molar, and set a Super Bowl record with 340 yards on 18-of-29 passing, 306 in the first half. Only six other quarterbacks have passed for 300 yards in a full Super Bowl. The four TD passes by the first black quarterback to play in this ultimate game tied the record for a Super Bowl.

The 35 second-quarter points — on just 18 plays — were 14 more than the Super Bowl record for a quarter and the most in a single period in National Football League (NFL) playoff his-



story. They used just 5:47 to score them and scored on five straight possessions, failing only when Williams downed the ball on the last play of the half.

Smith, a surprise starter for George Rogers, rushed for 131 yards in the first half, five more than he had in the entire regular season. He finished with 204 yards in 22 carries, including his first two pro touchdowns. That broke Marcus Allen's record of 191 set in the Raiders' 38-9 rout of the Redskins in 1984.

Sanders, who caught two of the four TD passes, had 131 yards on receptions in the first half and finished with a record 193 yards and nine receptions.

The 356 yards gained by Washington in the second quarter was just 17 less than its season-long average for a full game and its six touchdowns set a Super Bowl record.

It didn't start that way.

But the Broncos couldn't finish off what they started.

Their second drive stalled at the Washington 7 and resulted in a field goal; their third was thwarted when Alvin Walton dropped Elway for an 18-yard loss, pushing the Broncos out of field goal range.

After Washington went 1-2-3-punt on its first series, Elway went boom — and it was 7-0 Broncos just 1:57 into the game.

It was the simplest of patterns — Nattiel on a fly, streaking right by Barry Wilburn, who later had two interceptions. Nattiel caught the ball in stride at the 7 and fell over the goal line as Wilburn tackled him too late.

Fifty-three seconds into the second quarter, Williams threw

an 80-yard touchdown pass to Sanders. Less than four minutes later, it was a 27-yarder to Gary Clark, followed by a 58-yard TD run by Smith, his first pro touchdown; a 50-yarder to Sanders and an eight-yarder to Clint Didier.

It hardly looked like that at the start.

Beginning with the 56-yard touchdown pass from Elway to Nattiel on their first play from scrimmage, the Broncos befuddled the Redskins in the first quarter with just about everything in their diverse playbook.

While Washington was starting its first five possessions at its own 20 or worse and open receivers were dropping passes, Denver was moving up and down the field.

There was a halfback pass to Elway, a quarterback draw, shovel passes and runs when Washington was looking for the pass.

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Celebrating Redskins fans romp through Washington

WASHINGTON (AP) — Hundreds of thousands of Washington Redskins fans poured into the streets of the U.S. capital for a raucous, sometimes violent, celebration Sunday night of the team's 42-10 Super Bowl win over the Denver Broncos.

A police spokesman, who asked not to be identified, said an undetermined number of arrests were made because of incidents of looting, window breaking at area shops and fights between celebrants.

No official arrests estimates were available because of the large number of people in the area, he said.

However, earlier in the evening at least four youths were arrested in an apparent racial incident in which four white teenagers jumped a black youth and stole his leather coat.

Police said the four likely would be charged with robbery. Several other celebrants were detained by police for public drunkenness. No formal charges have been brought against them.

At the White House, President Ronald Reagan and his wife, Nancy, gathered with about 40 personal friends in the family theatre to watch the game, said Liz Murphy, a White House spokeswoman.

Fans poured out of the local bars, townhouses and college fraternities of Georgetown, a Washington neighbourhood, to mass on street corners and wave Redskin banners. With "we're No. 1" fingers raised high, they sang "Hail to the Redskins" and sent up cheers from atop light poles for television cameras.

An extra contingent of police officers wearing riot gear blocked off sections of the area to vehicles, but allowed clamorous fans, estimated at 100,000 to turn the neighbourhood into a giant block party.

Jubilation turns to chagrin for Denver Broncos fans

DENVER (AP) — Jubilation lasted a mere 15 minutes in bars and living rooms in this football-crazy town Sunday night as Denver's beloved Broncos blew an early 10-0 lead and fell 42-10 to the Washington Redskins in the Super Bowl.

"It was a wake. It was very tragic," said Charlie Biederman, whose two dozen guests watched the game on his big-screen television. "The feeling here was 'wait until the year after next'."

In anticipation of a Super Bowl victory, the city was awash in the Broncos' orange and blue during the past two weeks. Pep rallies were held daily. Instead, Sunday proved to be the day Denver went 0-3 in the Super Bowl.

"We started to lose our enthusiasm at halftime," said Michele Kidney, a cocktail waitress at Bay Wolf Restaurant, site of a black-tie party of 100. "We remained hopeful in the second half, but in our hearts we knew what would happen."

In a nightmarish second quarter, Washington went ahead 35-10, and the shell-shocked Broncos never recovered. The game evoked a sense of déjà vu among Denver fans. Last year in the Super Bowl, Denver was ahead of the New York Giants 10-9 at halftime but lost 39-20.

At Denver's Prudential Plaza, where a giant TV screen had been erected, hundreds gathered to watch the game in light snow. By the third quarter, the crowd had dwindled to fewer than 50. Supermarkets experienced the opposite effect.

"It was dead in the first half," a supermarket clerk said during the second half, "but it's picked up. We have customers, although it's a little thinner than usual."

At Jackson's Hole, a sports bar in suburban Lakewood owned by former Broncos tight end Ron Egloff, the cheering of fans in the standing-room-only bar drowned out the 33 TV-sets in the first period, when Denver was ahead.

Draw sets possible Liverpool-Everton clash

LONDON (R) — Favourites Liverpool are in line to meet neighbours and league champions Everton in the fifth round of the English Football Association (F.A.) Cup.

In an appetising draw made Monday the runaway league leaders must travel to the winners of the fourth round tie between Everton and Second Division Middlesbrough.

Although Middlesbrough are at home in Wednesday's replay, the odds are still on doughty cup-fighters Everton reaching the next round.

Everton are the only side this season to beat Liverpool. That was in a third round league cup tie in October but since then Liverpool are unbeaten in all competition and they would welcome the chance of cup revenge over their old foes.

Liverpool's highly efficient 2-0 fourth round success at Aston Villa Sunday sent more shudders through the ranks.

The other glamour tie, which is sure to be a sell-out, is at Arsenal where Manchester United are the visitors.

Third Division Port Vale, who knocked out Tottenham Saturday, were rewarded with another home tie, against First Division Watford.

Improving Newcastle United, famous cup fighters of the 1950s, will be at home to rugged Wimbledon, fancied by many to go a long way in the competition. In another all First-Division affair, Queen's Park Rangers entertain Luton, who, like their hosts, play on a plastic surface.

An all-midlands clash features Second Division Birmingham at home to Nottingham Forest. In

other games, Portsmouth or Sheffield United are at home to Bradford, while Blackpool or Manchester City entertain Plymouth.

The ties are due to be played on Feb. 20.

Nottingham Forest, which lies second to Liverpool in the league standings, must travel for the third consecutive round, meeting Second Division Birmingham City.

Bradford City, second division conqueror of Oxford United in the previous round, must visit either to Portsmouth or Sheffield United, whose fourth round match was postponed.

The only fifth round match not to involve a First Division side sees Plymouth Argyle visiting the winner of a replay between Blackpool and Manchester City.

For Port Vale, a team from a central English region famous for making pottery, the draw means another capacity crowd of 20,000 to boost its finances.

Reacting to the home draw against Watford, Port Vale manager John Rudge said: "We have already shown by beating Tottenham that anything is possible. The game will be another opportunity to put Port Vale on the map."

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NBA STANDINGS

NEW YORK (R) — Standings of National Basketball Association (NBA), teams after Sunday's games:

Eastern Conference				
Atlantic Division				
	W	L	Pct.	GB
Boston Celtics	31	12	.721	—
Philadelphia 76ers	19	22	.463	11
Washington Bullets	17	23	.425	12½
New York Knicks	14	28	.333	16½
New Jersey Nets	9	32	.220	21

Central Division				
	W	L	Pct.	GB
Atlanta Hawks	30	13	.698	—
Detroit Pistons	24	14	.632	3½
Chicago Bulls	26	16	.619	3½
Milwaukee Bucks	21	19	.525	7½
Cleveland Cavaliers	21	21	.500	8½
Indiana Pacers	20	21	.488	9

Western Conference				
Midwest Division				
	W	L	Pct.	GB
Dallas Mavericks	28	12	.700	—
Denver Nuggets	24	17	.585	4½
Houston Rockets	23	17	.575	5
Utah Jazz	18	23	.439	10½
San Antonio Spurs	17	22	.436	10½
Sacramento Kings	16	28	.364	16

Pacific Division				
	W	L	Pct.	GB
L.A. Lakers	33	8	.805	—
Portland	25	15	.625	7.5
Seattle	25	18	.581	9
Phoenix	13	27	.325	19.5
L.A. Clippers	10	31	.244	23
Golden State	9	30	.231	23

NHL STANDINGS

(Ice Hockey)

NEW YORK (R) — Standings of National Hockey League (NHL), teams after Sunday's games:

Wales Conference						
Patrick Division						
	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Philadelphia Flyers	26	20	6	58	176	181
Washington Capitals	24	22	6	54	176	162
New York Islanders	24	21	5	53	195	180
New Jersey Devils	23	24	5	51	178	193
Pittsburgh Penguins	21	23	9	51	206	212
New York Rangers	20	25	6	46	198	193

Adams Division						
	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Montreal Canadiens	28	15	10	66	164	164
Boston Bruins	29	19	5	63	166	166
Buffalo Sabres	23	21	9	55	200	200
Hartford Whalers	22	22	7	51	163	163
Quebec Nordiques	21	25	3	45	185	185

Campbell Conference						
Norris Division						
	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Detroit Red Wings	24	19	8	56	201	173
St. Louis Blues	23	23	5	51	176	175
Chicago Black Hawks	22	27	3	47	184	211
Minnesota North Stars	16	30	8	40	166	224
Toronto Maple Leafs	15	28	9	39	191	219

Smtne Division						
	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Calgary Flames	32	14	6	70	262	189
Edmonton Oilers	29	17	7	65	234	178
Winnipeg Jets	22	22	7	51	186	193
Los Angeles Kings	18	31	5	41	198	243
Vancouver Canucks	16	30	7	39	180	203

Canadian grandmaster beats Sokolov in World Chess Festival

SAINT JOHN, New Brunswick (AP) — Canadian grandmaster Kevin Spraggett scored a victory Sunday in the resumed fifth game of his World Chess Championship candidates final against Andrei Sokolov of the Soviet Union.

Spraggett's victory tied their match at 2½.

Play had been adjourned Saturday in a position with the 34-year-old Spraggett from Montreal maintaining a pawn advantage.

In the second session, Spraggett won a further two pawns and eventually forced Sokolov's resignation at move 73.

Sokolov, 24, who was ranked third in the world last year, had been the favourite before the six-game duel began.

But Spraggett's fighting play has left experts unwilling to rule out an upset.

The winner of the candidates series will challenge world champion Garry Kasparov of the Soviet Union for his title in 1990.

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Indian troops seize 134 Tamil rebels in Jaffna

COLOMBO (R) — Indian troops detained 134 Tamil separatist guerrillas in a massive weekend operation on Sri Lanka's northern Jaffna peninsula, security sources said Monday.

They said 93 fighters of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam rebel group were captured in the sweep across the Vadamarachchi region and 41 of their comrades surrendered.

The sources said a large quantity of weapons and ammunition was seized from rebel hideouts in the operation.

The independent Sun newspaper reported Monday that Tiger leader Velupillai Prabhakaran was hiding in the Vadamarachchi area with 100 bodyguards and that the Indian troops were closing in on them. There was no official confirmation of the report.

Residents said the eastern towns of Batticaloa, Kalmunai and Samanturai, were paralysed Monday after another rebel group, the Eelam Revolutionary Organisation of Students, called a strike to protest against the arrest of four of their leaders.

The four men, suspected of

having been involved in a series of bomb attacks in Colombo over the past three years, were arrested during the past two weeks, security sources said.

Residents said the student group complained that its members should not be arrested as it supported the Indo-Sri Lanka peace accord.

President Junius Jayewardene said Sunday he planned to hold elections to proposed provincial councils throughout the island in March or April as part of a campaign to end the Tamil rebellion in the north and a Sinhalese insurgency in the south.

The setting up of semi-autonomous councils in the island's nine provinces is a key element in an agreement signed by Jayewardene and Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi last July to restore peace in the country.

Jayewardene said Gandhi and other Indian leaders, with whom he held talks in New Delhi last

week, were confident that the Indian peace-keeping force deployed on the island would be able to restore normality in the strife-torn north and east by March or April.

At least 50,000 Indian troops have been posted in the two regions under the pact to disarm the Tigers who are fighting to set up an independent state for the Tamil minority.

Jayewardene called on the Sinhalese youth opposed to the pact to surrender their weapons and contest elections to the proposed provincial councils.

He said a large measure of central-government powers would be given to the councils with each having a governor, a chief minister and a board of ministers.

Twelve Sri Lankan soldiers were wounded Monday in the eastern district of Trincomalee in a third explosion triggered by Tamil rebels in as many days, a military official said.

Two of the soldiers were in critical condition and were rushed to the capital at Colombo for treatment, said the official, who cannot be identified under briefing rules.

Manila police clash with rioters

MANILA, Philippines (AP) — Troops fired tear gas before dawn Monday to disperse about 1,000 people who stormed a suburban town hall to protest alleged election fraud.

The military action came as voters in four provinces chose local officials in balloting that had been delayed by fears of violence.

The military's capital regional command said at least three people were injured in the melee, which erupted when supporters of losing candidates stormed the town hall in Muntinlupa, where votes were being counted following the Jan. 18 regional elections.

Witnesses said the crowd smashed windows, overturned tables and tried to tear down the election tally board. Troops hurled tear gas canisters and fired weapons in the air to scatter the protesters.

Former Mayor Santiago Carlos Jr., who was trailing administration candidate Ignacio Bunye in the mayoral contest, was among those slightly injured.

Crowds gathered again around mid-day near the town hall, but there were no serious incidents.

Voters went to the polls Monday in the central provinces of Leyte and Northern Samar and in the Mindanao Island provinces of Lanao Del Norte and Lanao Del Sur to choose governors, vice governors, mayors and council members.

Lt.-Col. Buddy Limsiao said voting was generally peaceful in the Lanao provinces, although the turnout in many areas was light. He said troops arrested several people for election violations, including possession of fraudulent ballots.

He also said voting was delayed in some communities because of a lack of ballots and ballot boxes.

Military spokesmen said there were no reports of violence during the nine hours of balloting.

Col. Antonio Nale told reporters at least six combat battalions, with about 2,000 soldiers, were sent to the two Lanao provinces to provide additional security during Monday's voting.

Both Communist and Muslim rebels operate in the two Lanao provinces, among the most lawless areas of the country. Communist rebels also operate in Leyte and Northern Samar.

Document incriminating Waldheim 'disappears'

VIENNA, Austria (AP) — Austrian President Kurt Waldheim was quoted as saying Monday that he does not feel incriminated by a published telegram claiming he was involved in the deportation of civilian prisoners in Yugoslavia in World War II.

His spokesman Gerold Christen branded the document a fake as soon as it was telecast to news agencies Friday evening by the West German magazine Der Spiegel.

A member of the commission investigating Waldheim's controversial wartime record said meanwhile that efforts to locate the original of the published telegram in Yugoslavia had failed.

Manfred Messerschmidt of West Germany told the Associated Press that members of the West German embassy in Belgrade had asked the heads of archives in the Croatian capital of Zagreb and in Belgrade if they had the original document.

The document was not in either archive, Messerschmidt said. "Nobody knows where it is," he added. "The document has disappeared... the whole thing is unclear."

He said efforts to reach Dusan Plenca, the Yugoslav historian said to have given the telegram to the West German news magazine Der Spiegel, had also failed.

The Associated Press in Belgrade also could not reach Plenca.

The Vienna daily Die Presse, a conservative newspaper which has supported Waldheim, quoted the president as telling its editor Thomas Chorrherr Sunday evening that the telegram is "most unbelievable."

"I do not feel myself incriminated by the telegram in the slightest," Waldheim was quoted as saying.

According to Der Spiegel, the telegram was found by Plenca, who told the Associated Press Sunday he has several documents that "seriously implicate" Waldheim in Nazi atrocities.

Plenca has repeatedly made such allegations, but had never produced any evidence for his charges against Waldheim.

Waldheim has been surrounded by controversy since March 1986, when Austrian and U.S. media and the World Jewish Congress first disclosed he served in the Balkans as a German army lieutenant from 1942 to 1945.

He later admitted his Balkan service, but has consistently denied any links to or knowledge of atrocities in the Balkans.

Die Presse reported that Waldheim said Sunday evening that a whole series of indicators pointed to the telegram being a fake.

Waldheim was quoted as saying the publication of the telegram was an attempt "to unsettle the commission and the public in the final round."

Physicist who took part in Manhattan Project dies

SEATTLE (AP) — Seth H. Neddermeyer, a physicist who helped develop the atomic bomb, has died after a battle with Parkinson's Disease. He was 80.

Neddermeyer, who died Friday, developed the implosion trigger, which enabled the A-bomb to be detonated.

He was working for the National Bureau of Standards when the nuclear physicist J. Robert Oppenheimer tapped him for the Manhattan Project in Los Alamos, N.M., that built the bomb.

Neddermeyer left in 1946 to become a professor at the University of Washington, where his research on cosmic rays helped lead to the discovery of subatomic particles called muons. He retired in 1973.

"I get so overwhelmed by a feeling of terrible guilt when I think about the history of the bomb," he said in 1983. "I'm terribly worried now about the current world situation. What the hell can we do about it?"

Bomb kills 5 in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (R) — Five people were killed and 30 others were wounded Monday by a bomb hidden in a crate of tomatoes in Peshawar, North West Frontier Province, the official APP news agency said.

It was the latest in a series of unexplained bombings which have killed more than 200 people in different Pakistani cities since the beginning of 1987.

Three of the dead were refugees from the guerrilla war in neighbouring Afghanistan, while the fourth victim was not identified, APP said.

The government of President Mohammad Zia Ul Haq blames the bombings on Afghan agents seeking to force Pakistan to drop its support for the Afghan rebels.

based here. The Soviet-backed government has dismissed the charge.

The seven Afghan rebel parties have their headquarters in Peshawar, capital of North West Frontier Province. The blast came a week after a bomb in a bus killed nine people and injured 24 in the Swat Valley north east of Peshawar.

Monday's device exploded in a vegetable market in a crate of tomatoes brought to Peshawar Sunday night. Five of the 30 injured were seriously hurt.

Meanwhile, three people were killed when Pakistani police opened fire on an angry mob protesting against alleged police torture, APP said Monday.

Reagan makes last-minute bid to save contra aid plan

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — President Ronald Reagan is making a last-minute drive to salvage a scaled-down, \$36.2 million aid package for the Nicaraguan contra rebels as both supporters and opponents of the plan predict victory this week in the U.S. Congress.

Reagan's lobbying drive, which included a speech scheduled Monday before the National Religious Broadcasters, will culminate with a televised pitch to the nation Tuesday night, on the eve of the crucial vote in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Reagan contends that maintaining support for the contras is essential to stave off Communism in Central America, while aid opponents say further support will reduce chances of obtaining peace.

Both sides predict a close vote, with some two dozen undecided House members likely to determine the outcome in Wednesday's scheduled vote.

House majority leader Thomas S. Foley, an opposition Democrat from the State of Washington, predicted Sunday congressional opponents of aid will prevail.

Foley, who appeared on the U.S. television NBC Network's Meet the Press programme, said: "I don't see it as beating the president. I think it's more in line with the Congress asserting support for the peace process in Central America, where additional votes for military lethal aid would be totally contradictory to that process."

Reagan's Chief of Staff, Howard Baker, said he was optimistic about the vote outcome.

"We don't have it won yet, but we've still got a good chance," Baker said on the U.S. television CBS Network Face the Nation programme.

The aid package is designed to maintain the rebels through June in their battle with Nicaragua's

Sandinista government.

"This is a measured package calculated... to keep pressure on the Sandinistas to fulfill the obligations they undertook in their agreement with the Central American presidents," Baker said, referring to the five-nation Central American peace plan.

Reagan's package includes \$3.6 million for ammunition and anti-aircraft missiles, which would be placed in escrow and released after March 31 if he decides that the regional peace process has not succeeded.

The remaining \$32 million in so-called "non-lethal" aid covers everything from food and clothing to money to lease aircraft and buy communications gear for troops in the field.

Ortega ends European tour

Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega wound up a whirlwind European tour with pledges of support from four governments for a Central American peace plan.

Sweden Sunday joined Norway, Spain and Italy in agreeing to monitor a five-nation agreement which calls for ceasefires and talks between Central American government and rebels.

Swedish Prime Minister Ingvar Carlsson gave the assurance after meeting Ortega over a working dinner, hastily arranged to squeeze into the Nicaraguan leader's short stay in Swedish capital.

Ortega, who headed for home Monday, told a news conference after meeting Carlsson that the support of the four nations was vital in efforts to reach a final ceasefire.

"The next step in the process will be a meeting of the Central American foreign ministers in order to decide how to verify the terms of a peace agreement," Ortega said. He did not give a date for the meeting.

Tokyo's January sets trees blooming

TOKYO (AP) — Record warm weather across much of Japan has coaxed plum trees into early blossom and held temperatures in Tokyo above freezing throughout January, officials said Monday. The warm weather has kept autumn persimmons hanging unseasonably on tree branches, but has chilled sales of heaters, winter coats and other winter products, newspapers reported. Plum blossoms were also appearing a few weeks earlier than usual. With little snow in many areas, some sports enthusiasts put their skis aside and played golf instead, with stores reporting sales of golf wear up 30 per cent from an average January, the newspaper Yomiuri Shimbun said. The average temperature for January in Tokyo was a March-like 7.7 degrees Celsius (46 degrees Fahrenheit), an all-time high since weather records began being kept in 1876, a Central Meteorological Agency official said. The warm weather was expected to continue for a while, coupled with unusually low precipitation.

China revives Euthanasia debate

PEKING (R) — China has revived a sensitive debate on whether to permit the killing of incurably ill people — and one of the country's most prominent stateswomen has emerged as an advocate on Euthanasia. A survey of 199 people published Monday in the northern province of Heilongjiang showed 89 per cent favoured Euthanasia for terminally ill cancer victims. "As Euthanasia is against Chinese traditional concepts and morality, the result was a surprise," the Chinese Women's Journal commented, cautioning that only 19 per cent of those polled were over 50 years old. A doctor was quoted as saying it was China's first public survey on Euthanasia. On Sunday, Health News reported China's first mercy killing court case and carried comment by Deng Yingchao, the 83-year-old widow of premier Chou Enlai, supporting Euthanasia. Deng had written to China's Central Radio Station in support of a group of doctors and scientists who had come out in favour of Euthanasia during a conference in December. Her support of "peace and happiness death" — as mercy killing is known in Chinese — was an opinion based on materialistic considerations, she said.

Actress to help anti-alcohol campaign

MOSCOW (R) — American comedy actress Carol Burnett is to visit the Soviet Union and address television viewers on ways of combating alcoholism and drug addiction, one of her tour organisers has said. J.W. Carty, an alcohol counsellor and priest in the U.S. Episcopal Church, told reporters Burnett had agreed to describe her own experience of growing up with alcoholic parents in order to help a joint U.S.-Soviet campaign against alcohol and drug abuse. Burnett would appear with her 23-year-old actress daughter Carrie Hamilton, who became a drug addict at the age of 13 but for the past six years has lived without narcotics or alcohol, he added. Carty heads an organisation called the "Soviet-U.S. Joint Conference on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse," bringing together concerned private citizens and health officials from both countries in the fight against alcohol and drug dependence.

'Too many vitamin tablets make you ill'

LONDON (R) — Parents who stuff their children with vitamin tablets to make them more intelligent could be poisoning them instead, doctors say. Chemists shops in Britain have reported a rush to buy vitamin pills after two studies said the pills would boost a child's intelligence quotient and curb aggressive behaviour. Doctors said that very high doses of Vitamin B, C, and D over a long period could prove toxic, leading to kidney damage, gallstones and paralysis of nerves in the hands and feet. Dr. Andrew Tomkin, a nutrition expert at London University, told reporters: "People think that because one tablet does you good, several will be even better. People are keen to improve their children's intelligence but there is always the possibility that if you give a child too many vitamins you will do more harm than good."

New York to distribute needles

ALBANY, New York (AP) — New York City will be allowed to give clean hypodermic needles to drug addicts in an attempt to curtail the spread of AIDS, in an experiment believed to be the first in the nation, state health officials have announced. Similar programmes have been instituted in The Netherlands and Britain. U.S. Surgeon General C. Everett Koop told the global summit on AIDS in London last week that such programmes had been resisted in the United States because of concern that they would abet drug abuse. The United States often has been criticised for lagging in the war against the fatal disease. State Health Commissioner Dr. David Axelrod had opposed such a programme, but changed his mind because the proposal was modified to require, said Axelrod's spokesman, Peter Slocum. The programme, developed by New York City Health Department officials, would "use the offer of a free, clean needle as a carrot" to lure drug addicts into treatment programmes where counsellors could then try to persuade them to quit, Slocum said.

Bangladesh police seize 2 kg of heroin

DHAKA (R) — Bangladesh police Monday said they found two kilograms of heroin in the suitcases of two Sri Lankans detained four months ago for carrying forged passports. They said the two men came to Bangladesh from India last October. Airport customs officers arrested them a few days later when they tried to board a plane to London allegedly with forged passports. After an anonymous tip off police Sunday night searched the suitcases of the detained Sri Lankans and found the heroin, with a street value of nearly \$650,000, police said.

Kids know about the molester

NEW YORK (AP) — Although mischievous kids still tumble down the steps of intermediate school 145 at the end of the day, a child molester's presence has cast a shadow on the school and its children. Fifteen times in the past eight months, a man has molested young girls in the Jackson Heights section of New York City's Queens district, three of them girls from school 145. He has fondled girls and scared them; two have been forced into sodomy. But the deputy police inspector in charge of the case, Joseph Depiero, says the man has not used a weapon though he claims to have a knife or gun. Tina Kilderis, 11, and her friends walk each other home now. At first they giggled when asked about the molester, but they were serious when they talked about how they and their friends have been affected. "Sometimes they get frightened because they've seen him. They get scared," Tina said. "I get scared when I walk by myself." Plainclothes officers walk among the students. A half-hour before school lets out, a patrol car parks briefly near the front entrance. Parents pick up their children in cars and taxis. Principal Perry Sandler speaks on a Walkie-Talkie with teachers patrolling the grounds. "It was an invasion of my home," Sandler said of the precautions. "I've been here 24 years. I started teaching here. This upset the balance of the school."

Heroin capsule bursts in man's rectum

PERTH (R) — A New Zealand drug trafficker suffered brain damage and partial paralysis when a capsule of heroin burst in his rectum, an Australian court was told Monday. Trevor Owen, 25, was carried unconscious from an aircraft at Perth airport last November after arriving from Bangkok. Hidden in his rectum were eight capsules containing 277 grams of heroin with a street value of \$940,000 (\$660,000), one of which had broken, prosecutor Ian Bradford told Perth District Court. Owen has pleaded guilty to importation and possession of heroin.

Barge carrying heavy oil sinks off U.S. coast

ANACORTES, Washington (AP) — A barge carrying 283,500 gallons (1.07 million litres) of heavy oil sank four miles (6.4 kilometres) offshore and began leaking Sunday, the Coast Guard said.

The barge, its cargo in 12 sealed compartments, began listing unexplainably in calm seas as it was being towed by a tugboat and went down in 136 feet (41 metres) of water, said coast guard spokesman Roy Compton. No one was injured.

Murky water and strong currents initially prevented divers

from determining the extent of the leak. A team with more sophisticated equipment later went down, but there was no sign the oil had washed ashore or created a slick officials said.

"As long as there is a barge sunk out there with 9,000 barrels of oil product, there is the potential for a major problem," Compton said.

Coast Guard seaman Veronica Cady said divers from National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration could get no deeper than 80 feet (24 metres) late Sunday afternoon.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
AND OMAR SHARIF
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ANSWERS TO WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q.1—East-West vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠93 ♠7 ♠K1065 ♠J87632

The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
3 ♠ Pass ?

What action do you take?
A.—It seems highly likely that your opponents can make a slam, possibly a grand slam. Therefore, it is essential that you make it as difficult as possible for them to realize the full potential of their combined assets by making an advance sacrifice. Our vote goes to five diamonds, or even six diamonds.

Q.2—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠K7632 ♠8 ♠98753 ♠474

The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass ?

What action do you take?
A.—If you could be sure partner has a spade fit, or a secondary diamond suit, you could afford to respond one spade. Unfortunately, it is far more probable that partner has length in the rounded suits (hearts and clubs), so any action by you could lead to trouble. Pass.

Q.3—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠J92 ♠AK8 ♠83 ♠Q10952

The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
Pass Pass 1 ♠ Pass

What do you bid now?
A.—You have excellent support for partner's first-bid suit. Nevertheless, you should be quite content with a mere preference to two hearts. You already took the ace of hearts into account when you made your two-over-one response.

Q.4—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠AKJ72 ♠AKJ3 ♠6 ♠QJ9

The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East

What do you bid now?
A.—You are definitely in the slam zone, but you don't know in what strain. For the moment, you need

do no more than bid three hearts. If partner has four cards in that suit, he will raise; if he does not but has three-card support for spades, he will take a spade preference; otherwise, he will rebid three no trump. In any event, you will then have a clearer picture of your final destination.

Q.5—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠Q73 ♠A2 ♠AQ1085 ♠AK6

The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass

What action do you take?
A.—Opposite a partner who has shown an imbalanced hand with at least a six-card spade suit, your hand is worth far more than its face value. The ruffing value in hearts, three trumps to a high honor and wealth of prime cards are assets that partner could not possibly imagine were you simply to raise to four spades. To get across the message that you really like spades, cue-bid four clubs and leave it to partner.

Q.6—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠93 ♠Q1087 ♠QJ73 ♠J82

The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass

What action do you take?
A.—Since partner's bid is forcing, pass is out of the question. Your possible bids are two no trump or three clubs. With such a weak hand and all soft values, we don't think you should encourage partner at all, so a bid of two no trump is clearly superior to a preference to partner's first-bid suit.

Social Democrat takes lead in Ecuador elections

QUITO (R) — Social Democrat Rodrigo Borja took a big lead in Ecuador's presidential elections Sunday in his third campaign for his country's highest office, according to poll results and a television forecast.

The computer network of Channel 10 national television gave Borja, a 52-year-old law professor who leads the Democratic Left Party, 20.4 per cent of the vote with more than half of the five million ballots counted.

Borja, who called on Friday for renegotiation of Ecuador's \$9.22 billion foreign debt, appeared headed for a run-off election between the two top candidates next May.

The voters chose from 10 presidential candidates Sunday and a run-off election will be held on May 8 if no single candidate wins 50 per cent of the vote.

Seven hours after the polls closed, Abdala Bucaram, an ex-mayor who returned from exile to run for president, lay second with 15.3 per cent and conservative Sixto Duran of the ruling Social Christian Party was third with

12.8 per cent.

Frank Vargas Pazzos, a former air-force general who staged two sensational but unsuccessful rebellions against retiring President Leon Febres Cordero in 1986, looked out of the running with 11 per cent, Channel 10 said.

In the 1984 election, Borja lost to Febres Cordero in a run-off. Final results may not be known for weeks as ballots are sent from the nation's 20 provinces to the capital for counting.

Ecuador, one of Latin America's poorest nations, suffered an economic crisis last year but analysts say Ecuadorians doubt a new president will make rapid changes.

Two people were killed and several others wounded in a shootout during voting in Quito, Interior Minister Heinz Moeller told a news conference Sunday. In the last election in 1984, at least 10 people were killed in clashes between political groups. Moeller told reporters the clash in the capital occurred when a group involved in a land dispute tried to keep rivals from voting.

Top Iowa paper supports nomination of Dole, Simon

DES MOINES, Iowa (R) — A week before a key presidential vote in Iowa, the state's top newspaper said it cannot back Vice President George Bush for the Republican presidential nomination because of the Iran-contra scandal.

In a concrete sign that the scandal could negatively affect Bush, the Des Moines Register said Sunday it was backing Senate minority leader Robert Dole for the Republican nomination in large part because of reservations about the vice president's role in the secret U.S. arms sales to Iran.

The newspaper also said it was supporting Paul Simon for the Democratic presidential nomination, comparing the affable Illinois senator to one of the most beloved American leaders, Abraham Lincoln.

Although Bush has repeatedly said he has clarified his role in the Iran-contra affair — the worst scandal to rock the Reagan administration — the Register's endorsement editorial insisted the vice president has not done so.

"George Bush is a decent man of presidential calibre," the newspaper said, "but there are too many unanswered questions ab-

out what, independent of (President) Reagan, he really believes in, and what he would do as president."

The Register said it chose to support Dole, who hails from the neighbouring farm state of Kansas and who polls show to have a big lead over Bush among Iowa Republicans, because "there is less uncertainty about what he stands for."

The endorsements from the generally liberal Register could tip the balance in the contest for support Iowa voters in local party meetings known as caucuses on Feb. 8. Although the Register is disliked by Iowa Republicans, its decision to back Dole may harm Bush's hopes of upsetting him there.

Bush, who has tried to focus attention on other policy issues, had a confrontation with CBS News anchorman Dan Rather last week during a live interview on Iran-contra that analysts said could boost the vice president's nomination campaign.

But the Register's endorsements — and some remarks by Secretary of State George Shultz Sunday — showed that the affair continues to dog Bush.